





## **SPEECHES**

**delivered by**

**His Excellency**

**SIR ROBERT REID, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E.**

**Acting Governor of Bengal**

**His Excellency**

**SIR JOHN WOODHEAD, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.**

**Acting Governor of Bengal**

**and**

**His Excellency**

**SIR ARTHUR HERBERT, G.C.I.E.**

**Governor of Bengal**

**during**

**1939-40**









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## ***His Excellency Sir Robert Reid's Speech at the Unveiling of the King George V Memorial on 3rd April 1939.***

MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR, LADIES AND  
GENTLEMEN,

We meet here this morning to pay homage to the memory of His Majesty King George the Fifth who, during the course of a reign beset with many troubles, won the love and esteem of his subjects in every corner of the Empire. This statue, which I am about to unveil, is a token of that love and esteem. It has been raised by public subscription in which people of all communities, people of all castes and creeds have joined and its unveiling had long been looked forward to by a beloved Governor whose tragic death we still mourn.

Those of us here today who recall the fateful years of the Great War and the troubled period which followed can never forget the wise counsel and unfaltering spirit of service which His Majesty placed always at the disposal of his people, and the respect with which, in a world of violent political upheaval, his position as a constitutional Monarch, was always regarded. But our generation will pass away and as time goes on the memory of those

eventful years will grow dim until they become but a chapter in the chequered history of the world. Let us therefore hope that this, our humble tribute, will serve to call to the minds of those, who in the years to come may pass, this way, the memory of a great and good King who dedicated his life to the service of his people.

***His Excellency Sir Robert Reid's Address  
on the occasion of the presentation  
of Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Silver to  
Miss Ethel Ellen Hutchings on 3rd April  
1939.***

MISS ETHEL ELLEN HUTCHINGS,

Eleven years ago you were appointed Matron of the Lady Dufferin Victoria Hospital and undertook the onerous task of reorganising the Nurses' Training School, Calcutta. As a result of your efforts the standard of efficiency amongst the nurses of the hospital has markedly improved and the special attention you have paid to the training of women from the rural areas has given a great impetus to the movement for better nursing conditions in the villages.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Silver for public service in India.

***His Excellency Sir Robert Reid's Speech at  
the Opening of the "Brabourne Park"  
at Darjeeling on 3rd June 1939.***

Both Lady Reid and myself regard it as a pleasure and a privilege to have been asked to join you at the opening of this new addition to Darjeeling's amenities and I thank you, Mr. Larkin, for the kind way in which you have referred to us in your address.

There must be many old residents and visitors—and we are perhaps among the oldest of the latter for our memories can go back a full 30 years—who cannot but feel regret at the passing of the old bandstand in the centre of the Chowrasta where for so many years the children of Darjeeling and their ayahs used to take shelter. It may not have been a thing of great beauty, but 30 years ago our standards of civic decoration were perhaps less ambitious than they are now. Those were the days when there was no Hardinge Bridge and we had to cross the Ganges in a ferry steamer; when we were content to spend half a day trundling up the hill in the railway train instead of rushing up in a car in time for breakfast; and when, to go to the races, the men were accustomed to walk or ride down to Lebong by Bhutia bustee while their ladies used to tuck their best frocks into that form of conveyance which is now almost a museum piece, the Darjeeling dandy. As for music on the air, that was a delight that no one dreamt of.

But times change, and even if the old stagers find it hard to change with them, it is right and proper that Darjeeling should keep itself abreast of modern demands. The architects have transformed what used to be a rather insignificant mound into this pleasing and imposing structure which at once overlooks and forms part of the recreational centre of Darjeeling and the whole effect is one of which, I am sure, the residents must feel proud and which will form a new attraction to visitors.

The Deputy Commissioner has enumerated the various donors of funds and services who have contributed so freely to the completion of this fine structure and I need not do more than to add my tribute to their generosity and to congratulate Darjeeling on its fortune in having so many friends to help with good advice and equally good money.

I think I am right in saying that this is the first public institution in Bengal which has been named in memory of the late Governor, Lord Brabourne. His untimely death prevented him from making more than the two customary visits of a single year to Darjeeling, but I know how much he appreciated the beauties of this place and Mr. Larkin has told us how interested he was in proposals for its improvement or additions to its attractions, and in particular this one which I am about to open.

His quick sympathy, his charm of manner, his vitality were features of his character which at once impressed themselves upon those with whom he came in contact. Himself endowed with a great

zest for life and a keen interest in all about him—both men and things—he was a man who liked to see others happy, and so no better memorial to which to attach his name could be found than this new place of rest and recreation in Darjeeling.

Behind this aspect of his character was a more serious side of which, though I met him personally only on very few occasions, I can claim to have some knowledge. I had the privilege of serving under him as Governor of Bengal when he was acting as Viceroy last year, while the two occasions on which I have been appointed to Bengal have given me the opportunity of seeing from inside his work as a Governor. He was essentially a worker but his industry was not that of the mere conscientious toiler. It was infused with a lively interest in all branches of the public administration and its mainspring was his intense concern for the good of the people, his intense determination to give of his best in all that might contribute to their welfare. Few probably realised the quantity or the quality of the work which the genial, debonair figure of public occasions and ceremonies accomplished in the privacy of the Study or the Council Chamber.

In naming her new recreation park after the late Lord Brabourne Darjeeling is commemorating a man who combined in himself charm of manner and appearance with administrative ability and political aptitude in a way which all must admire and few can emulate.

I have much pleasure in declaring the Brabourne Park open.

***His Excellency Sir Robert Rold's Addresses  
to the recipients of Medals, Badges  
and Sanads at the Informal Investiture  
held at Government House, Darjeeling,  
on 8th June 1939.***

**C.B.E.**

RAI SETH SUKHLALL KARNANI BAHADUR, C.B.E.,

You are a banker and merchant of position in Calcutta and an influential member of the Marwari community. The help which you rendered in war time to the "Our Day" Fund and again in 1935 to the Silver Jubilee Fund have earned you recognition for your support of good causes.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I invest you with the Insignia of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, of which His Majesty has been pleased to appoint you a Commander.

**M.B.E.**

~~RAI~~ LAKSHMI NARAYAN SUKHANI BAHADUR, M.B.E.,

You are a leading business man in Darjeeling and Sikkim and in 1930 the title of Rai Bahadur was conferred upon you by His Excellency the Viceroy. You have recently demonstrated still further the interest you have always shown in public affairs by a generous donation of Rs. 20,000 towards the construction of the nurses' quarters attached to the Victoria Hospital, Darjeeling.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I invest you with the Badge of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.



**MR. SARAJU KUMAR DUTT, M.B.E.,**

After serving with distinction as District Engineer, Rangpur, you were selected some 13 years ago for the difficult and responsible position of Municipal Engineer, Darjeeling.

Under your charge new schemes and improvements to the value of nearly 10 lakhs of rupees have been carried out with economy and success and the engineering work of the Municipality has been maintained at a high standard of efficiency. The speed and thoroughness with which the whole town was overhauled and made safe after the severe earthquake of 1934 owed much to your energy and devotion to duty.

Your sterling integrity no less than your ability has earned for you, in the course of your long and faithful service, the confidence and respect of all in Darjeeling.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I invest you with the Badge of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

**Khan Bahadur.**

**KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI MIZANUR RAHMAN,**

Your association with various public institutions in the subdivision of Sirajganj has been a long and honourable one and has gained for you the affection and esteem of the village people amongst whom you have worked. As Marriage Registrar of Ullapara, Member of the Local Board and President of the Union Board, you have kept constantly in touch with local conditions, whilst the Lakshi Charitable

Dispensary at Purnimaganti and the recently started Middle English School there bear practical witness to your public spirit.

In recognition of your services, His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Khan Bahadur, and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

### **Rai Bahadur.**

**RAI JADUNANDAN CHOUDHURY BAHADUR,**

One of the leading zamindars of the district of Malda, you have devoted a great deal of your time to voluntary public service. In addition to holding for eight years the responsible post of Chairman of the English Bazar Municipality, you have served on the District Board as a member of the Co-operative Silk Union and as Chairman of the Co-operative Bank. Your donations for charitable purposes have been extensive and include the very generous gift of a Hindu Hostel at Malda and the cost of the installation of an X-Ray apparatus in the Sadar Hospital.

His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Bahadur, and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

**RAI BAHADUR SUBEDAR NAZAR SING LAMA,**

During your service in the Burma Frontier Force you earned the commendation of the authorities by your general administrative ability and by the qualities of leadership which you displayed in times of emergency. In particular, mention must be made

of the operation which you carried out, near Pyape, in September 1931 when, accompanied only by 20 men, you were successful in breaking up a dangerous rebel gang after a bold advance through almost inaccessible country.

His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Bahadur, and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

### **Khan Sahib.**

**KHAN SAHIB MAULVI MUHAMMAD OSMAN GANI TALUKDAR,**

A Talukdar and lawyer of Sirajganj, you have taken a keen interest in the conduct of local affairs and have successfully held the position of Chairman of the Local Board for the last four years. You have also interested yourself in all matters pertaining to the welfare of the villagers and have done much to promote the Rural Reconstruction Movement throughout the subdivision.

His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to confer upon you the title of Khan Sahib, and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

### **Bar to Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Silver.**

**MRS. SOFIA ANNIE STANLEY,**

Eleven years ago your public services in Calcutta, especially your work as Secretary of the Calcutta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, were recognised by the award of the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Silver. Since then you have been further

responsible for the formation of an All-India Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and have taken an active part in promoting the Animal Welfare Hospital Scheme at Delhi and the Anti-Phooka Campaign in Bengal.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, I present you with a bar to the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Silver for public service in India.

**•Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Silver.**

MISS ANNE DOROTHY LAWRENCE,

As matron of the Jadavpur Tuberculosis Hospital, since shortly after its foundation in 1923, you have taken a keen personal interest in the gradual development of an institution which is still, almost unique, in Bengal. The circumstances under which you accepted the post, when none other would come forward on account of a member of the Nursing Staff\* having contracted tuberculosis, reflects the greatest credit on your courage and your devotion to the cause of Nursing.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Silver for public service in India.



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**Acting Governor of Bengal**

**during**

**1939-40**



***His Exoellenoy Sir John Woodhead's  
Address to Cub Abdul Majid in present-  
ing him with the "Gilt Cross for  
Gallantry" at the Jackson Shield  
Competition held at Dacca, on 21st July  
1939.***

CUB ABDUL MAJID,

Whilst you were passing by a tank, your attention was drawn by cries from two small children who had been caught out of their depth in the water and were in imminent danger of being drowned. You at once jumped into the tank and, single handed, succeeded in dragging both the children to safety.

The Chief Scout for India has now been pleased to grant you a 'Gilt Cross for Gallantry' in recognition of your courage and in conveying his congratulations to you, I also add my own.



***His Excellency Sir John Woodhead's  
Speech at the Jackson Shield Com-  
petition held at Dacca, on 21st July  
1939.***

The holding of the Jackson Shield Competition at Dacca this year marks a new departure in Bengal Scouting. You yourselves will be able to say whether the idea has been successful. Judging from the fact that there has been a record entry and 22 teams have come to compete from all over the Province, I have little doubt what your verdict will be. It has been a very wet afternoon but at any rate I believe you will have had no reason to doubt the warmth of your welcome to Dacca by your fellow Scouts and all who have helped in the arrangements for your visit.

I hope that the experiment this time will lead to, another visit when Dacca's turn comes round again and that all of you will carry away happy memories of hospitality and good fellowship on this occasion.

The competitions themselves which you have just finished, are a yearly incentive to maintain and improve the standard of your scout craft : but hardly less important are the opportunities that you get at a time like this to renew old friendships and make new ones, to talk together and compare notes, to learn of the successes and difficulties of your brother scouts in other parts of the Province, and to hear how far each in his own way has been able to help forward the aims of this great fellowship.

As you know, in the last 2 or 3 years Scouting in India, has had its difficulties to face, and without complacency I think we may say that Scouting in Bengal is the better and stronger for having faced them. It did us no harm, to have to take stock of the position and ask ourselves once again what should be the future of Scouting in India and whether it is worth while. I think we have made up our minds that it is more worth while now than ever to belong as free and willing members to a brotherhood that has for its aims the making of true men all the world over—a brotherhood which recognises as its members all those who undertake to serve their fellow men and their country, to keep the Scout law and to face the difficulties of life with cheerfulness and courage in the Scout spirit.

If a Rally like this of Scouts from all over the Province can help to strengthen and spread the spirit of good fellowship and strenuous endeavour in a common aim, it will more than repay the trouble that has been taken to organise it and the efforts of all those who have contributed towards making it a success.

I would like to offer my special congratulations to the *Rajshahi* troop on winning the Jackson Shield and the *First Calcutta* troop on being the runners up, the Barrackpore troop for winning the Anderson Shield and all, on the high standard which has prevailed.

Among the trophies I have presented is one that figures for the first time in the list this year. It is presented by Rai Bahadur Pannalal Mukherjee, for the mofussil troop securing the highest aggregate of marks in this competition and is named in memory

of your late and beloved Chief Scout Lord Brabourne. I know how much his presence meant to you on the last Rally of this kind and with what affection you rightly cherish his memory.

I congratulate the Bogra Troop on being the first winners and I am sure that many other teams will vie with them next year for the honour of this trophy that bears the name of one who did his duty to the end with enthusiasm and cheerfulness as a true Scout.

***His Excellency Sir John Woodhead's  
Addresses to gentlemen Invested at the  
Dacca Durbar on the 24th July 1939.***

**C. I. E.**

MR. LOUIS REGINALD FAWCUS,

As a Member of the Indian Civil Service you have served with distinction in many capacities for over twenty-seven years and during the Great War saw active service with the Indian Army in Mesopotamia.

Your long association with the Settlement Department first in the District of Mymensingh some twenty years ago, and later as Settlement Officer of Khulna and 24-Parganas culminated in your appointment as Director of Land Records. Your work throughout was marked by that energy and ability and that deep and abiding interest in rural Bengal and the lives of its people by which the fine tradition of Settlement has been built up and maintained.

As Secretary to the Board of Revenue, as a Secretary to Government and in your present office as Commissioner of this Division your experience and devotion to duty have been of high value to Government.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I invest you with the Insignia of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, of which His Majesty has been pleased to appoint you a Companion.

**MR. EDMUND BRYAN JONES,**

You joined the Indian Police Service thirty years ago and after holding various minor charges were posted successively to Bakarganj, Rangpur and the 24-Parganas—three of the heaviest Districts of the Province. From 1927 to 1932 you served as Assistant to three Inspectors-General, all of whom spoke in the highest terms of your work and during the course of which time you displayed outstanding courage on the occasion of the Writers' Buildings outrage in 1930. Since 1932 you have served almost continuously as Deputy Inspector-General and have more than maintained your previous reputation for resourceful and vigorous administration and balanced and logical judgment.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I invest you with the Insignia of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire of which His Majesty has been pleased to appoint you a Companion.

### **Kaisar-i-Hind Medal in Gold.**

**REVEREND VICTOR JAMES WHITE,**

You came out to India 21 years ago and for the last 13 years you have been in charge of the Australian Baptist Mission at Birisiri, a backward and partially excluded area of Mymensingh. The work which you have done there in promoting the material and cultural advancement of the aboriginal population has been of the greatest help to the authorities and the fact that you are now responsible for no less than 83 primary schools as well as schools of a more advanced standard, and have raised the

Birisiri Debt Settlement Board to its present high standard of efficiency, is a measure of the success you have achieved.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Gold for public service in India.

### **Sardar Bahadur.**

**SARDAR BAHADUR SUBADAR MAJOR BISTOO RAM CACHARI,**

During your 30 years service in the Eastern Frontier Rifles you have, by virtue of ability and devotion to duty, earned the respect both of your superior officers and of those who have been placed under your command. After being promoted to the rank of Subadar in 1929 you twice acted as Jamadar-Adjutant of the Battalion, a post reserved for Indian Officers who have displayed marked ability, and since 1937 when you were made Subadar Major you have fully justified the confidence placed in you.

His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Sardar Bahadur, and I have much pleasure in investing you with the badge of that title.

### **Khan Bahadur.**

**KHAN BAHADUR KHWAJA MUHAMMAD ISMAIL, M.L.C.,**

A Member of the Dacca Nawab Family and one of the principal shareholders of the Dacca Nawab Estate you have devoted much of your time recently to looking after the Mahalla Sardars and have, as a

result, been able to do a great deal towards maintaining peace and order in the town. Your co-operation in these matters has been of much value to local officers whilst your charitable donations have earned for you the respect and affection of all.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Khan Bahadur and I have much pleasure in investing you with the badge of that title.

### **Rai Bahadur.**

**RAI KUNJA BIHARI ROY BAHADUR,**

You have a long and honourable record as a Judicial officer having entered the Bengal Provincial Judicial Service more than 30 years ago. For three years before your retirement in 1937 you held the responsible post of District and Sessions Judge and throughout, your work was of an exceptionally high order.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Bahadur and I have much pleasure in investing you with the badge of that title.

**RAI BENODE BEHARI HAZRA BAHADUR,**

At the outbreak of the last Great War you volunteered for general service and after serving with distinction in the Military Department for 4½ years you reverted to Civil Work in the Districts, where you soon earned the reputation of being a competent Surgeon and a good physician. On the administrative side your initiative was responsible for the construction of a maternity ward at

Krishnagar; you also took an active interest in the new Smallpox ward which is being erected at Rangpur, where you held the post of Civil Surgeon before your present appointment at Bakarganj.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Bahadur and I have much pleasure in investing you with the badge of that title.

### **Shifa-ul-Mulk.**

SHIFA-UL-MULK HAKIM HABIBUR RAHMAN,

You have been practising the Unani system of medicine in Dacca for more than 30 years and your reputation as a Hakim has spread far and wide. In order to further the cause of the system of medicine which you follow you have been instrumental in establishing the Tibbia College where a proper and systematic course of training can be obtained—an achievement which has been widely appreciated by the public.

I now congratulate you on receiving the title of Shifa-ul-Mulk which His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to confer upon you.

### **Rai Bahadur.**

RAI SURENDRA NARAYAN RAY BAHADUR,

After entering Government service more than 23 years ago your work was recognised in 1926 by the award of the title of Rai Sahib. Since then you have repeatedly officiated as an Executive Engineer in the Engineering Branch of the Public Health Department and have acquired an extensive knowledge of all branches of the work whilst your loyalty.



and judgment have always been of the greatest value to your superior officers.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Bahadur and I have much pleasure in investing you with the badge of that title.

### **Khan Sahib.**

**KHAN SAHIB MAULVI SHAMSUDDIN AHMED,**

Your record of public service in the cause of village self-government is a long and honourable one. For 18 years you have been associated with the administration of Hazratpur Union Board and, for the last seven years you have been its President. Among the many successful achievements of the Board, which are due primarily to your initiative, and in some cases also to your liberal financial assistance, are the establishment of a charitable dispensary and the opening of two free primary schools—one for girls and one for boys. Four years ago the excellent work done by your Board was recognised by a personal visit from Sir John Anderson.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Khan Sahib and I have much pleasure in investing you with the badge of that title.

### **Rai Sahib.**

**RAI SAHIB MANINDRA CHANDRA DAS,**

You were President of the Fatulla Union Board in the Narayanganj Subdivision of Dacca District for nearly 18 years and the excellent standard of

administration established there is largely due to your personal influence and endeavour. The experience which you possess in these matters was recognised 6 years ago when you were chosen to lead a deputation of representative Union Board Presidents to wait on His Excellency the Governor at Dacca. In addition to this, you took an active interest in organising the Silver Jubilee Celebration and popularising Jute Restriction Propaganda and are still an elected member of the District Board.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib and I have much pleasure in investing you with the badge of that title.

### **Khan Sahib.**

**KHAN SAHIB MAULVI BADARUDDIN AHMAD,**

Since you joined the Bengal Police 24 years ago your work has been consistently of a very high order and has already earned for you the Silver Jubilee and Coronation Medals and the Indian Police Medal. In the Palong Circle of Faridpur District, where you worked for a long period before your present appointment in Calcutta, you were largely responsible for breaking down the influence of the revolutionary parties and, by your work in the cause of Rural Development, helped to establish a healthy enthusiasm amongst the villagers for the improvement of village conditions.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Khan Sahib and I have much pleasure in investing you with the badge of that title.

**KHAN SAHIB MAULVI MUHAMMAD KHABIRUL HUQ,**

You have been Muhammadan Marriage Registrar at Faridpur since 1927 and have carried out the duties attached to this post with great efficiency. In addition you have an impressive record of voluntary public service being an Honorary Magistrate and Honorary Religious Instructor at the Faridpur Jail. You are also a member of the Faridpur Municipality and the Haj Committee—positions in which you have shown commendable zeal for the public welfare.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Khan Sahib and I have much pleasure in investing you with the badge of that title.

**KHAN SAHIB MAULVI GYASUDDIN PATHAN,**

A Pleader and Talukdar of Mymensingh, your energy in public life has been untiring and you have always been ready to place your knowledge and experience at the disposal of the authorities. When you were Chairman of the Sadar Local Board you carried out a dual policy of wise economy and productive expenditure whilst as Secretary of various educational institutions you have done much to promote the growth of cottage industries and assist the cause of Rural Development.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Khan Sahib and I have much pleasure in investing you with the badge of that title.

**Rai Sahib.****RAI SAHIB NAGENDRA NATH GHOSH,**

Your record of service, since you joined the Bengal Police as a Sub-Inspector in 1911, has been a long and honourable one. Your untiring energy and indomitable courage in the discharge of your duties brought you promotion to the rank of officiating Inspector in 1930, a grade in which you were confirmed four years later. The fact that you have never been afraid to speak your mind, frankly and openly, has made you invaluable to your superior officers and has earned for you their liking and respect.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib and I have much pleasure in investing you with the badge of that title.

**RAI SAHIB BINOD LAL BHADRA,**

A Pleader and a member of the panel of Public Prosecutors, Faridpur, you have devoted a great deal of your spare time to voluntary public work of many kinds. As Joint Secretary of the Faridpur Bratachari Society you have done much to maintain the activity of that movement and have also been closely associated with the encouragement of agriculture and the spread of education. Some years ago, and at considerable personal sacrifice, you worked wholeheartedly for the District Anti-terrorist Association and your co-operation proved of the greatest value to the authorities.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib and I have much pleasure in investing you with the badge of that title.

**Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Silver.**

**MUNSHI SIDDIQ AHMED,**

A landlord of Bakarganj District you have been, for many years, a member of the Kalayia Union Board in which capacity you have done valuable public work and contributed generously to local educational institutions. During the recent period of distress in Patuakhali you not only gave freely to the relief fund but personally supervised the relief work at several of the centres.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Silver for public service in India.

**Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Bronze.**

**MAULVI AZAHARUDDIN KHAN,**

You have served several times as President of the Subidkhali Union Board and by your zeal for the welfare of the public have earned the respect of all classes. In particular you did excellent work organising and administering relief during the recent period of distress in Patuakhali and contributed liberally to the relief fund from your own pocket.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Bronze for public service in India.

**MAULVI MUHAMMAD HUSAIN ALI,**

During the scarcity which prevailed in Bakarganj District in the autumn of 1937 you were in charge of the West Circle of Patuakhali Sub-division, one of the most gravely affected areas. Due to the relief measures which, in spite of constant ill health, you succeeded in organising with great efficiency, the situation was speedily brought under control and a great amount of suffering was averted.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Bronze for public service in India.

**MAULVI ABUAL KASEM MOHAMMAD FAKHARUDDIN AHMED,**

You are the Sub-Registrar of Thana Gournadi in the District of Bakarganj, an area which was one of those worst affected by flood during the year 1938. As Chairman of the local relief committee you did invaluable work and by virtue of the example which you set you were able to unite all parties to strive wholeheartedly for the relief of suffering.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Bronze for public service in India.

***His Excellency Sir John Woodhead's  
Addresses to the recipients of the  
King's Police Medals, Indian Police  
Medals and to the Members of the  
public to whom rewards were given at  
the Police Parade held at Dacca on  
25th July 1939.***

**King's Police Medal.**

INSPECTOR MOHINI MOHAN SANYAL,

You were enlisted as a Sub-Inspector 28 years ago and you have, throughout your career, shown consistent ability in Intelligence work. In 1927 you were promoted to the rank of Inspector after a period of service in the Central Intelligence Branch; and six years later you were specially selected for work in Midnapore, where you are now stationed and where you have rendered able and devoted service under circumstances frequently of great difficulty.

His Majesty has been pleased to recognise your services by the grant of the King's Police Medal with which I have now much pleasure in decorating you.

**Indian Police Medal.**

MR. DONALD ROSS HARDWICK, I.P.,

You entered the Police Service in 1914 and eleven years later were confirmed as a Superintendent of Police. Subsequent to this, you held charge with conspicuous success, of two heavy Districts

and rendered valuable service, for four years, as Assistant Inspector-General of Police. Your work throughout has been characterised by keenness and initiative and it gives me great pleasure to decorate you with the Indian Police Medal, in recognition of your work.

MR. JOHN LEWIS JENKINS, I.P.,

Your 19 years service in the Police Department has been marked throughout by thoroughness and application to duty. In addition to your District work, which was consistently of a high order, you earned especial commendation during your appointment as Assistant Inspector-General, for the admirable control you exercised over the Police budget, a feature of your work which was singled out for praise by the Public Accounts Committee.

I now have much pleasure in decorating you with the Indian Police Medal which has been awarded to you in recognition of your services.

MAJOR GEORGE MERVIL STERLING WEBB,

After working for the last four years as Assistant Commandant of the Eastern Frontier Rifles at Dacca—a post you filled with marked success, you have now been appointed officiating Commandant. In particular, your conduct in March of last year when you made several gallant, though unavailing, attempts to save the life of a recruit who had fallen into a deep tank, was an excellent example to all ranks.

I have now much pleasure in decorating you with the Indian Police Medal which has been awarded to you in recognition of your services.



**Mr. WILLIAM HENRY BEMROSE, I.P.,**

You joined the Indian Police Service in 1925 and after holding various charges were appointed Additional Superintendent of Police, 24-Parganas, in 1935. During the period of your appointment there was frequent and severe labour trouble in the Barrackpore area and on several occasions your firm and tactful handling of the situation, and the qualities of leadership you displayed, prevented a serious breach of the peace.

In recognition of your work you have been awarded the Indian Police Medal and it is with great pleasure that I now decorate you with this award.

**RAI SAHIB PABITRA NATH BASU,**

You started your career in the Police Department 32 years ago as a clerk in the office of the Superintendent of Police, Mymensingh, obtaining an appointment as an officiating Sub-Inspector two years later. Since then your ability and consistent hard work have earned for you steady promotion, first to the rank of Inspector in 1926 and subsequently to that of Deputy Superintendent, which you now hold.

In recognition of your services you have been awarded the Indian Police Medal with which I have now great pleasure in decorating you.

**BABU SRIMANTA KUMAR BASU,**

During your 19 years service, which has been spent in the Districts, you have displayed, on several occasions, ability and resourcefulness of a high order. Two instances which deserve mention are, firstly, when you showed great initiative in quenching a fire in the office of the Superintendent of

Excise, Chinsurah, 9 years ago and, secondly, when you displayed great acumen in assisting the investigation of the Burge Murder Case in Midnapore. You have now been awarded the Indian Police Medal in recognition of your work and I have great pleasure in decorating you with it.

**MAULVI KAZI ABDUR RASHID,**

Joining the Police Department as a Sub-Inspector, 31 years ago, you were transferred to the Intelligence Branch of the Criminal Investigation Department shortly after the outbreak of war. Your work proved uniformly good and after officiating as an Inspector in 1920, you were confirmed in that grade in 1930 and continued to be employed in the Intelligence Branch, until your retirement a short time ago.

I now have much pleasure in decorating you with the Indian Police Medal which has been awarded to you in recognition of your services.

**INSPECTOR GIRIJA KANTA CHAKRABATTI,**

Shortly after you joined the Department as an officiating Sub-Inspector you showed unmistakable evidence of your ability as a detective and were given a course of training in the Detective Training School. Since then your investigation work has been consistently good and 2 years after confirmation in the grade of Inspector in 1932, you were appointed to the Criminal Investigation Department where you have earned commendation for your work in connection with dangerous gangs of dacoits.

In recognition of your services, you have been awarded the Indian Police Medal with which I have great pleasure in decorating you.

**INSPECTOR SACHINDRA NATH JHA,**

You joined the Police Department in 1914 as a probationary Sub-Inspector and showed consistent ability in the performance of your duties. After undergoing a course of training in the Detective Training School, you were transferred, in 1930, to the 24-Parganas Detective Department and from there, three years later, you joined the Criminal Investigation Department where you are now posted and where you have earned many commendations.

In recognition of your work you have been awarded the Indian Police Medal with which I have great pleasure in decorating you.

**INSPECTOR KHAGENDRA NATH MUKHARJI,**

You have served in the Police for 20 years, for 8 of which, from 1928 to 1936 you worked in the Intelligence Bureau of the Home Department of the Government of India, where you earned the respect of your superior officers. Since your return to Bengal, you have been Circle Inspector in the District of the 24-Parganas where you have rendered valuable service in dealing with several ugly industrial situations.

You have now, in recognition of your services, been awarded the Indian Police Medal and I have great pleasure in decorating you with it.

**INSPECTOR SUSHIL KUMAR BASU,**

You spent the first 8 years of your service in the District of Dinajpur, joined the Intelligence Branch in 1927 and were confirmed as an Inspector in 1937. Your ability in investigation has been responsible for the detection of many important cases in North

Bengal and the number of these which have resulted in conviction is a tribute to your work, in recognition of which, I have great pleasure in decorating you with the Indian Police Medal.

**INSPECTOR RAMANI RANJAN SINHA,**

You were appointed as a Sub-Inspector of Police 24 years ago and early in your career earned a reputation for drive and initiative by your work in the District of Midnapur, where you served both in the regular line and in the District Intelligence Branch. You began to officiate as an Inspector in 1934 and were confirmed in that grade three years later. You have now been awarded the Indian Police Medal in recognition of your services and I have much pleasure in decorating you with it.

**INSPECTOR TABANATH SARKAR,**

During the 20 years you have served in the Police Department, your work has been of a very high standard and has given uniform satisfaction to your superior officers. Your ability earned you promotion to the rank of Inspector in 1934, in which grade you were confirmed 3 years later.

I now have much pleasure in decorating you with the Indian Police Medal which has been awarded to you in recognition of your services.

**INSPECTOR BIBHUTI BHUSAN SHAHA,**

You joined the Police Department as an officiating Sub-Inspector, 22 years ago and after completing your training, joined the Intelligence Branch in the District of Bogra. You continued in this line of work in several Districts, in all of which your

marked ability and devotion to duty earned for you the commendation of your superior officers.

In recognition of your services, you have been awarded the Indian Police Medal with which I have much pleasure in decorating you.

OFFICIATING INSPECTOR JNANENDRA PRASAD  
BANARJI,

Although your service amounts only to 15 years, the work which you have done both in the regular line and in the Intelligence Branch, in Birbhum District, has been of a very high order. In particular you were responsible, in 1933, for obtaining information which led eventually to the arrest of a dangerous band of absconding dacoits. You first officiated as an Inspector, four years ago and I have now great pleasure in decorating you with the Indian Police Medal which has been awarded to you in recognition of your work.

OFFICIATING INSPECTOR MOTI LAL DEY,

You joined the Police Department as a constable, 29 years ago. Your ability and devotion to duty was such, that in 7 years you began to officiate as a Sub-Inspector and have now attained the rank of officiating Inspector—a very praiseworthy achievement. Throughout your service you have been employed in the District Intelligence Branch of Dacca and have frequently had to work in conditions fraught with great danger.

In recognition of your services you have now been awarded the Indian Police Medal with which I have great pleasure in decorating you.

**OFFICIATING INSPECTOR GOPAL CHANDRA  
CHAKRABATTI,**

A hard working and conscientious Officer, you have, to your credit, a record of 13 years good service, 7 of which have been spent in the District Intelligence Branch, Tippera, where the information you have been instrumental in obtaining, has been of value not only to your own District but to neighbouring Districts also.

In recognition of your services I have now great pleasure in decorating you with the Indian Police Medal which has been awarded to you.

**\* SUBADAR HARKA BAHADUR LAMA,**

You have served in the Eastern Frontier Rifles for 31 years where, by 1936, you had risen by steady promotion to the rank of Subadar. In 1934 you received a reward for good work in connection with dacoities whilst deputed to the District of Chittagong and the same year became Jamadar Adjutant of the Battalion, which post you held with credit, for two years. Your work has shown you to be an officer of outstanding character and ability and in recognition of this I have now great pleasure in decorating you with the Indian Police Medal which has been awarded to you.

**SUB-INSPECTOR UPENDRA NATH RAHA,**

You joined the Police Department as a constable in the year 1911 and by your ability and devotion to duty you have earned steady promotion, first to the rank of Assistant Sub-Inspector and now to that of Sub-Inspector. Your work has been uniformly good and during the course of your career

you have earned a large number of rewards and commendations. You have now been awarded the Indian Police Medal and I have great pleasure in decorating you with it.

**SUB-INSPECTOR SAKHI MUHAMMAD,**

You come of a family which has a long and honourable record in the service of Government and you yourself served overseas during the Great War rising, by virtue of your own efforts, from the ranks to Viceroy's Commission. Subsequent to this you have served in the Armed Police of this Province where your qualities of tact and leadership have been widely appreciated. In particular your work as Assistant Commandant of the Berhampore Detention Camp, was of the greatest value to the authorities.

In recognition of these services you have now been awarded the Indian Police Medal with which I have great pleasure in decorating you.

**PROBATIONARY SUB-INSPECTOR ABDUS SOBHAN AHMAD,**

You joined the Police Department as a constable, thirty years ago, and have since risen to the rank of Probationary Sub-Inspector. Your courage and initiative were amply demonstrated in February of last year when, having obtained information of a projected dacoity, you laid a trap for the dacoits and succeeded in arresting two out of their number. I have now much pleasure in decorating you with the Indian Police Medal which has been awarded to you in recognition of your services. \*

## **Indian Police Medal for Gallantry.**

**ASSISTANT SUB-INSPECTOR KESHAB LAL BISWAS,**

On the 8th May 1937, during the time you were attached to the Madaripur Police Station in Faridpur District, you received information, whilst returning from night patrol with only two constables, that a riot was impending in village Kalikapur. Hastening there you found two parties of nearly 1,500 people preparing to attack each other. Although you had only 1 gun you warned the parties and eventually, to prevent serious trouble, fired on them and succeeded in averting what might have been a very serious riot.

In recognition of the bravery which you displayed on that occasion, I have much pleasure in decorating you with the Indian Police Medal for Gallantry which has been awarded to you.

**ASSISTANT SUB-INSPECTOR HRISHIKESH MISRA,**

During the floods in the Padma and Mahananda rivers in 1938 you were stationed in the District of Malda and were sent out on patrol in Nawabganj Police Station to render aid to the people in the flooded areas. For 8 days you worked under conditions of considerable danger and by conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty succeeded in effecting the rescue of nearly 300 people.

In recognition of the bravery which you displayed on that occasion, I have much pleasure in decorating you with the Indian Police Medal for Gallantry which has been awarded to you.



**OFFICIATING ASSISTANT SUB-INSPECTOR SAKHI  
CHABAN MONDAL,**

On the 10th February 1938, when you were attached to Kotalipara thana in Faridpur District, you were deputed, along with 2 armed constables, to prevent a breach of the peace which was apprehended at Chhatrakanda. On arrival you found two hostile parties numbering about 500 persons each, armed with spears and other weapons, preparing to attack each other. When, in spite of a warning, they commenced to fight you courageously intervened and by firing three shots at the feet of the mob, succeeded in dispersing them.

In recognition of the bravery which you displayed on that occasion, I have much pleasure in decorating you with the Indian Police Medal for Gallantry which has been awarded to you.

**OFFICIATING ASSISTANT SUB-INSPECTOR SIKANDER  
MIAN,**

In April last year whilst you were temporarily in charge of Ramgati Police Station, Noakhali, you received information that a riotous armed mob of about 200 persons was collecting at Kaliachar, a place about 12 miles away. You immediately went there with four constables, only two of whom were armed, and found the mob burning houses and pillaging. You intervened at once and though savagely attacked, opened fire with great coolness and judgment at precisely the right moment and thereby succeeded in putting the mob to flight and taking several prisoners.

In recognition of the bravery which you displayed on that occasion, I have much pleasure in decorating you with the Indian Police Medal for Gallantry which has been awarded to you.

**CONSTABLE KANAI SINGH, -**

On the 23rd of November last year you displayed conspicuous gallantry in the district of Burdwan, in effecting the rescue of two boys from a house which had caught fire, thereby saving their lives.

In recognition of the bravery which you displayed on that occasion, I have much pleasure in decorating you with the Indian Police Medal for Gallantry which has been awarded to you.

### **Members of the Public.**

**BABU PRIYA NATH CHATARJI,**

In April 1937 you displayed great coolness and public spirit in effecting the arrest of a young man who had in his possession suspicious property and was behaving in an unusual manner. It was subsequently established that the young man was one of a gang of dacoits, who had just committed a dacoity, and was escaping with stolen property.

**MAULVI TAHUR AHMAD CHAUDHURI,**

You showed commendable initiative and public spirit in co-operating with the police in the investigation of a dacoity which took place in thana Bholahat, District Malda, in July last year, and in obtaining information which was of great assistance to the police.

**MAULVI ANESUDDIN AHMAD,**

Your assistance to the police in breaking up a dangerous gang of dacoits who had been operating in Gangarampur Police Station of Dinajpur District, was greatly appreciated and showed a high standard of civic responsibility.

**MAULVI KALIMUDDIN AHMAD,**

On the occasion of a dacoity in thana Bholahat in the District of Malda, in July 1938, you showed commendable public spirit by your co-operation with the police which considerably facilitated the prosecution.

**MAULVI ROSHAN ALI SHAIKH,**

You were of great assistance to the police when a dacoity took place at Hatipota in Midnapore, in February last, and with your help, sufficient evidence was secured to convict six of the dacoits.

***His Excellency Sir John Woodhead's  
Speech at the Conference of Union  
Boards of Dacca District on 26th  
July 1939.***

**NAWAB BAHADUR, MR. GEORGE, MR. SHAHABUDDIN  
AND GENTLEMEN,**

Before I refer to the many interesting problems raised in Mr. Shahabuddin's report and in the address from the members of the Union Boards, I would like to thank the Hon'ble Minister for inviting me to open your Conference to-day. I need, perhaps, hardly add that it is a very great pleasure for me to do so.

You have referred, Gentlemen, to my long association with this Province; an association which goes back to days well before the introduction of the Village Self-Government Act and which, at any rate, in its early stages, was very closely connected with Eastern Bengal. In those early days we had only the rudiments of the machinery which is now doing so much to make our villages better and healthier places to live in. But though the machinery was lacking, I feel that the spirit which was subsequently to infuse that machinery with life, was always present. Village society in India has always shown an aptitude for organising and managing its own affairs: an aptitude which I think I am correct in saying, has its origins deep in the past; deep in the historical traditions of the Indian people. Although in Bengal it has been said that the villages were losing this spirit of self-government and were turning more and more to the headquarters of the District or Subdivision for initiative and assistance,

it was undoubtedly this aptitude of a village to manage its own affairs which has resulted in an expansion and development of the Union Board system to a degree that even its most ardent supporters could hardly have hoped for when it was introduced. By this I do not mean, in any way, to belittle the efforts of those who have worked so hard to make it a success, or to minimise the opposition which we all know was manifest at the outset. I only want to emphasise my belief that the principles underlying the Union Board system are fundamentally sound and in accordance with the best traditions of rural Bengal. How far, and in what direction, decentralisation should go is a controversial matter on which I do not intend to venture an opinion, but in the success it has achieved up to date in the shape of the Village Self-Government Act, there can, I think, be no two views.

You have touched, to-day, on many of the problems with which you are faced. Some of these are already under the consideration of my Government; others are awaiting the collection of data, necessary for a close and detailed examination. Whilst I intend to comment generally on some of these points, you will not, I know, expect me to give you detailed replies—a task which would fall more appropriately on the Hon'ble Minister who is in close daily contact with your problems and who is always alert to see that they secure a full and just share of my Government's attention.

. . Rural Water Supply and Rural Public Health Services which you have mentioned have always exercised the minds of Union Boards. That this should be so is only natural for these two subjects

touch a rural population very closely, and a democratic body must expect to be judged very largely on its ability to show that it is really dealing adequately with such problems. In this respect Dacca District need not fear comparison with any other. Last year His Excellency Sir Robert Reid was able to congratulate you on the expenditure you incurred for water supply and on the fact that, under the guidance of the District Board, a comprehensive scheme for the whole District had been prepared. This year I feel no hesitation in repeating those congratulations more especially in view of the fact that my Government's new policy of assisting local bodies to improve the water supply is based on the type of survey which has already been carried out in Dacca. It is reassuring also to hear that the scheme formulated by my Government for the reorganisation of the Public Health Services, has commended itself to your own practical experience of village conditions. Certain modifications to that scheme have since been proposed and these are at present under consideration.

Another subject of great importance is Primary Education. In your address you have expressed the hope that, with the introduction of the Primary Education Cess, there should be no further delay in implementing the scheme. Whilst this is now, of course, a matter primarily for the District School Board, I am informed that the scheme did, in fact, begin to work last March and no less than 1,700 schools are now providing free education. Some delay was inevitable in view of the difficulty in securing suitable buildings and recruiting adequate staff but, in view of what has been done, I think

you will agree with me that the School Board has made a good beginning. On the further suggestion that the relief afforded to the education budget of the Union Boards by the levy of the cess, should be augmented by transferring some of the cost of the rural police to the Provincial Government, it is not possible to pass an opinion now. The problem is, in fact, an entirely separate one and has been referred to the Chaukidari Enquiry Committee. The report of that Committee has been somewhat delayed by the fact that its Chairman was required unexpectedly to take over the duties of the Chief Secretary in February last owing to the tragic death of the late Lord Brabourne, but the report will in due course be available to Government and I have every hope that it will throw a great deal of light upon this old standing problem.

Lastly you have referred to a very natural desire that the Village Self-Government Act should be amended and more powers should be conferred on the Union Boards. Again, this is a matter to which I can assure you my Government will give very careful consideration. Suggestions for improving the Act have been called for and received from local officials and from local bodies including Union Boards. These suggestions need very careful and detailed scrutiny and, in fact, are at present under consideration. Pending the result of this examination it would not be appropriate for me to say anything further on the subject.

. . Before I conclude I would like to express my appreciation of the two outstanding instances, during the last 12 months, where the Union Boards have been able to render signal help to the

authorities. I would refer first to the Water Hyacinth Week the success of which has, I am told, been largely due to the enthusiastic support afforded by the Union Boards as a whole. Next, but no less important, was the help given by the Union Boards after the serious floods of 1938 in which more than 1,100 sq. miles of the District were affected. Although the relief work was done to a certain extent by specially constituted committees, I am assured that, without the active help of the Union Boards, the work would have been much more difficult to arrange and much less efficiently done.

In the course of those operations more than 4 lakhs of rupees in agricultural loans and a great deal of gratuitous relief had to be distributed. With this in my mind I may say that on my way to Dacca this time I lost no opportunity of looking at the condition of the country generally—for Government no less than yourselves must in the end depend for its prosperity on the wealth of the soil and the markets of the world. I join with you in the fervent hope that during the coming months we shall be spared the calamities of last year and that both the cultivator and Government will find themselves in a position to make good the damage to their resources.

Now gentlemen, as you have much work to do, I will not detain you further, but before leaving you to your deliberations, I would like once again to say how deeply I appreciate the kindness of your personal references to myself and how sincere are my good wishes for your welfare and the progress of the institutions committed to your charge.



***His Excellency Sir John Woodhead's  
Address at the Convocation of the  
Dacca University on the 29th of July  
1939.***

MR. VICE-CHANCELLOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

When I presided at your Convocation five years ago my service in Bengal was drawing to a close, and I little thought that it would fall to my lot to meet you here again in the year 1939. But, as I said on that previous occasion, I have known Eastern Bengal for a very long time. I spent the earlier, and probably the more impressionable years of my service in it and I always feel a close personal interest in the progress of its institutions—amongst which I am not alone in ranking the University as one of the most important. The position now occupied by the University in the educational life of the people of this Province must be a source of pride to everybody in Dacca and it gives me the greatest pleasure to be associated with it once again. I should add that this pleasure does not arise solely from renewing old associations and from meeting old friends but also from the realisation that this young and vigorous University has been able to secure so eminent a person as Mrs. Sarojini Naidu to deliver the Convocation Address. I am not going to attempt to re-echo the eloquent tribute that has already been paid to her—you all know her far too well for that—nor am I going to stand for long between you and the address you are all anxiously

awaiting, but I should like to emphasise, both personally and on behalf of the University, how glad I am she has been able to come to-day.

I must thank you, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, for the appreciative way you have referred to the late Lord Brabourne. Although I only had the privilege of meeting him on three or four occasions it has not taken me long to realise how firm a hold he had on the trust and affection of the people of Bengal and, I have good reason to believe, of the people of other parts of India also. Although he never visited the University—his term as acting Viceroy coincided with the annual visit of the Governor to Dacca—he was fully conversant with the problems of this University and was always ready to hear and discuss matters relating to the welfare of the younger generation. I also join with you in mourning the death of so many distinguished members and ex-members of the University whose services, whether at Dacca or further afield, can ill be spared. Other losses to the staff have occurred through transfers or promotions and here at least we may console ourselves by the realisation that Dacca's loss has been somebody else's gain. It is perhaps invidious to mention particular cases but I feel I shall be ungracious if I do not recall the great services rendered to the University by Professor S. C. Ghosh and the honour he has brought by his appointment as Director of the Indian Institute of Science at Bangalore.

You have referred, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, during the course of your address to a number of administrative problems which, as Chancellor, I am just as anxious as you are, to see satisfactorily resolved.

But problems as a whole have a habit of evading a facile solution and those to which you have referred are no exception to the rule, though, in some cases, we can derive satisfaction from the fact that real progress has been made.

Towards the provision of another Muslim Hall Government has been able to render material assistance by a generous grant of Rs. 2½ lakhs. Whether the further grant for which you have, as it were, staked a claim to-day, can be justified, is a matter on which Government is obviously not in a position to commit itself, one way or another, until all the detailed plans and estimates are available and have been carefully scrutinised.

Another problem, equally as pressing, is that of accommodation for women students. The recent increase in their numbers, to which a reference has already been made to-day, is a sign that it cannot be shelved much longer. It is not possible, I am afraid, to allot to the University, a separate block of the new Hostel which is to be attached to the Eden College, as the plans provide for one rectangular building. I am assured however that any proposal to allot limited accommodation in the building, to women students of the University, will be favourably considered.

Your desire to have your own Faculty of Agriculture dates back for many years and is one to which attention has repeatedly been drawn on occasions such as this. Five years ago, whilst commenting favourably on the idea, I was compelled to draw pointed attention to the then precarious financial state of the Province and to discuss it in, at any rate, extremely cautious terms. To-day the project

is much further advanced ; Government has approved of it and has agreed to give financial assistance. It is to be hoped that this will finally result in an effective course of training being drawn up. On the question of the establishment of a Faculty of Medicine, to which reference has also been made to-day, Government must clearly keep an open mind until the full deliberations of the Committee, which is at present considering the question, are available.

The last point to which you referred, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, is one to which we all attach great importance, I mean the question of the grant made each year by Government to the University. Whether or not this should be a fixed statutory grant must depend ultimately on the decision of the Legislature. Meanwhile however the question has been under examination in the Finance Department which has already considered the advisability of introducing a bill, in the next Session, making the grant to the University charged on the revenues of the Province.

I have already taken up far too much of your time but there is just one more thing I would like to say—particularly now to those of you who are about to quit the University and seek their future in a competitive world. Your Vice-Chancellor has told you that you should cease to regard yourselves as members of a privileged class—that now-a-days the aristocracy of birth, wealth and education must give way to the aristocracy of numbers. At the same time I would enjoin on you to remember that democracies, no less than other and more authoritative forms of Government, require guidance and leadership. You, who have had the advantage of a University education, are still in reality a privileged class

not simply because you have attended a University and are permitted by statute to write 'B.A.' or 'B.L.' after your names, but because you have better potential opportunities than others, of filling the role of leadership which is still so very necessary in the world to-day. If you squander this opportunity recklessly you are throwing away something which is of value not only to yourselves but to the community in general, if you conserve and apply it wisely, you will, in the fullest sense, serve the best interests of your country.

And now ladies and gentlemen I will not delay you any longer, and I have great pleasure in asking Mrs. Sarojini Naidu to address the Convocation.

***His Excellency Sir John Woodhead's  
Speech at the Eastern Bengal Saraswat  
Samaj Convocation, Dacca, on 31st  
July 1939.***

LEARNED PANDITS OF THE SARASWAT SAMAJ,

In the last fortnight I have addressed a number of Public Bodies and Associations in Dacca and have taken the opportunity of telling people how pleasant it has been for me to revisit Eastern Bengal—a place where I spent a great deal of my early service and where I have now been able to renew many old friendships and meet, once again, Associations whose work is well known to me. When I say to-day, how glad I am to see you once more it is not because I am repeating a stereotyped formula but because I feel that in meeting the Saraswat Samaj I am meeting a body of men who are closely linked with the cultural progress of this part of the country and who have, in their keeping, a tradition of sound scholarship and indigenous learning which it is important to maintain intact. It is in this light that I have always thought of the Samaj and it is in this way that I shall always remember you.

As a fellow subject of the Crown I thank you for the appreciative way you have spoken of Their Majesties' successful tour to the New World. The pride and pleasure which you have voiced is a feeling, which I am confident in saying, is widely shared throughout the Empire, and that you should have chosen to speak of it to-day is in accordance with the traditional loyalty to the Throne which you have always shown.

You have referred to the grievous loss inflicted on this Province by the death of the late Lord Brabourne—a loss which I know you feel very deeply and one which has called forth expressions of sympathy from all parts of the Province—indeed from every corner of India. Although he never had the pleasure of meeting the Samaj his interest in the traditional culture and learning of Bengal was a deep and abiding one, and there was a close similarity between the manner in which he strove, unselfishly and without considering his own comfort, to further the best interests of the Province, and the ideal for the pursuit of learning, without regard to material gain, which the Samaj has set itself out to follow. I feel that, in the late Lord Brabourne, you have lost a sincere friend and a true follower of one of the main principles for which you stand. I must also join with you in mourning the loss of Pandit Haripada Smrititirtha of Mulajore Sanskrit College and Pandit Kamal Krishna Smrititirtha of Benares—both of them teachers well known, and highly respected.

The profound concern at the disturbed state of the world, to which you have referred, is a concern which is shared by all of us who value the maintenance of an ordered and peaceful civilisation, and who believe that learning and culture, and the conditions which allow these to flourish, are of great value and importance to the world. Your own ideals which picture a society where close and peaceful contact is maintained between teacher and pupil, and where learning can be pursued in an atmosphere, if not wholly divorced from the hurly burly of a competitive world, at least

reasonably free from outside interference, is, I am afraid, far divorced from conditions as they are to-day. It is reassuring however to remember that the scholar and the teacher have become an integral part of the structure of society. Although it is in times of peace and prosperity that they have the greatest opportunity for bringing their influence to bear on their contemporaries, yet history is full of instances where scholarship and learning have flourished under the most adverse circumstances. During violently disturbed periods in the history of this country, just as during the Dark Ages in Europe, there were always devoted bands of scholars who kept the torch of learning alight, to enable it to burn with redoubled vigour when more settled conditions prevailed once again. It is this continuity in the growth and development of your culture which is so reassuring and which indicates so clearly that as teachers and scholars, you represent a strong and permanent current in the stream of Indian civilisation.

But, in case you should think I am paying too little attention to the everyday side of your life let me say how glad I am to hear of the successful maintenance of your educational standards as revealed by the examination results of the last 12 months, and of the co-operation you have received from Government officials and distinguished non-official educationists. It is also encouraging to hear that the financial assistance afforded by my Government and by private benefactors, for the spread of indigenous Sanskrit education, has been so deeply appreciated. As a token of my own interest in the welfare of your Samaj, and in recognition of the



high regard in which you are held, I propose to make you a grant of Rs. 750 as was done last year by His Excellency Sir Robert Reid.

Finally I must thank you for the very kind way in which you have referred to me to-day. I can assure you, one and all, that I shall carry away from Bengal very pleasant memories of my last meeting with so devoted a band of scholars.

***His Excellency Sir John Woodhead's  
Addresses at the Informal Investiture  
at Government House, Calcutta, on  
the 23rd August 1939.***

**M. B. E.**

**MRS. HASINA MURSHED, M.L.A.,**

You are a member of the Bengal Legislative Assembly, and you have, for many years, taken an active interest in public work of all descriptions. As an Honorary Presidency Magistrate, Central Childrens Court, the treatment of juvenile crime—a problem of paramount importance in a large city such as Calcutta—has been your special care, whilst your work on the Dacca University Court and as a member of the Advisory Board of Women's Education, Bengal, has been of great value in furthering the cause of education in this Province.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I hand you the Badge of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

**Kaisar-i-Hind Medal in Gold.**

**MRS. SWARNAPRAVA MULLICK,**

During the life time of your husband you were associated with him in the numerous charitable donations which he made for the improvement of rural conditions in the village of

Singur in Hooghly District. Recently you have made another generous gift of Rs. 80,000 in Government Promissory Notes and further gifts of materials worth several thousands of rupees, for the construction and maintenance of a Maternity Ward in Singur. This, in conjunction with help given by the Rockefeller Foundation has enabled Government to establish a Model Health Unit which will be of great value for furthering the cause of Rural Reconstruction in that area.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Gold for public service in India.

### **Bar to Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Silver.**

**MRS. HOMAI MEHTA, M.B.E.,**

For many years you have taken an active interest in Health Welfare Work in India—an interest which was recognised thirteen years ago by the conferment upon you of the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Silver. Since then you have continued to work for a number of voluntary bodies, such as the Dufferin Hospital and the National Indian Association and in particular have been of very great assistance in the successful organisation of the *Calcutta Health Week* and the several Health Welfare sections of the Red Cross.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, I present you with the bar to the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Silver for public service in India.

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**Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Silver.**

**MISS NANCY ETHEL BLEAKLY,**

As medical Superintendent of the Church of England Zenana Mission at Ratanpur in the District of Nadia you have gained a wide reputation as a skilful physician and sympathetic social worker. Through the agency of your maternity ward and the centres for poor patients which you were instrumental in opening, good medical attention has been made readily available to large numbers of poor people.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Silver for public service in India.

**MISS PROSHONNO KUMARI CHAUDHURI,**

You have held the important post of Lady Doctor in the Outdoor Department of the Howrah General Hospital for more than 20 years and were for five years, in charge of the Howrah Baby Clinic. During this period in addition to doing much voluntary work you gave ungrudgingly a large proportion of your means to charitable causes connected with medical work, including a donation of Rs. 10,000 for the construction of probationary nurses quarters at your hospital and Rs. 4,000 for the endowment of a bed in the Silver Jubilee Maternity Ward:

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Silver for public service in India.

**MRS. NCHARIKA DUTT,**

You have a long and honourable record of voluntary service in the cause of Health Welfare Work. From 1924 to 1935 you held the responsible post of Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Northern Child Welfare Centre—a post which you did not vacate until compelled to do so by ill health. You have also been, for several years, on the Committee of the Bengal Training School for Health Welfare Workers and you are still an Honorary Magistrate of the Juvenile Court.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Silver for public service in India.

***His Excellency Sir John Woodhead's  
Speech at the memorial meeting of the  
late Nawab Bahadur Sir Abdelkerim  
Ghuznavi on 24th August 1939.***

MR. SHERIFF AND GENTLEMEN,

Sir Abdelkerim Ghuznavi was a great son of Bengal and this meeting which has been convened to-day, is a token of the respect and esteem in which he was held by all; for there are few things which move people more deeply than the death of someone who has served his country faithfully and well. Although his death did not come as a complete surprise, for we had all been aware that he was in failing health since the death of his wife two years ago, it is still difficult to realise that one who was once such a potent force in the political life of his country and his Province; one who had occupied such a high position in public affairs is no longer in our midst.

His death has been for me a personal loss which I feel deeply. My acquaintance with him began in the early years of my service, over 30 years ago and I can clearly recall the active part he played in the Central Legislative Council before and during the war. Many years later we became colleagues together on the Executive Council of Bengal and I think I may safely claim that it was during those days—and very difficult they were—that our acquaintance ripened into friendship, a friendship that continued even after he had retired from official life.

I have often asked myself, as one does about one's friends who have become eminent, wherein lay his greatness and to which of his many qualities did he owe that high position in Bengal which he came ultimately to occupy. In a man of so clear and so decisive a judgment as Sir Abdelkerim, it is difficult, and also perhaps invidious, to attribute his success to one quality rather than to another. But to those who worked with him and to those who knew him intimately, there was one characteristic which stood out above all others and that was his wide culture and understanding. He was one of those fortunate men of whom India can boast of so many outstanding examples, who are able to acquire a deep and intimate intellectual sympathy with the West and yet remain fundamentally in accord with the ideas of their motherland. Educated at a Devonshire School, at a London Institution and at the Universities of Oxford and Jena, he had, by the time he reached his majority, travelled widely throughout Europe and had acquired a wider and more liberal Western education than the average young Englishmen of his generation. In circumstances such as these, it would have been understandable if his mind had become attuned to a Western rather than an Eastern outlook. That this did not happen is a tribute to his strength of character, and his early return to settle on his ancestral lands was characteristic of his deep and abiding interest in the welfare of rural Bengal.

It was in the early years of the present century that his interest began to turn towards politics. His

education and culture and his outstanding personality quickly brought him to the forefront. As long ago as 1909 he represented the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam in both Muslim and Hindu interests in the Imperial Legislative Council and for three years, from 1913 to 1916, he was the representative of Muslim interests for the whole of Bengal on the Viceroy's Council. A few years later in 1923 he entered the Bengal Legislative Council and was appointed a Minister in 1924 and again in 1927. In 1928 he was elected Chairman of the Bengal Provincial Committee formed in connection with the Simon Commission and in the following year he was appointed a Member of the Bengal Executive Council, a post which he held with dignity and repute till his retirement in 1934. His work was, however, not limited to matters of purely Provincial concern; his knowledge of peoples and places beyond the confines of the Province gave him a wider interest. In 1913 he visited the Court of the King of the Hedjaz and also Palestine and Syria to enquire into the problem of the Pilgrim Traffic and in 1929 he was elected General Chairman of all the Provincial Committees which were formed in connection with the Simon Commission.

I have so far spoken of Sir Abdelkerim as an Administrator—as a great public servant. But a desire for public service was not the only strongly marked trait in his character. He was above all a devout and ardent Muslim and a great student of religion. He rendered in many spheres invaluable services to his own community. And last but perhaps not least he passionately loved rural Bengal. Indeed he was never happier



than when he was able to get away from the stress of public affairs and spend sometime—no matter how short—in the rural surroundings of his ancestral estate at Dilduar.

And in conclusion may I say just this :—I feel confident that Sir Abdelkerim's name will always be remembered by the people of Bengal in general as that of a great public servant and by his many personal friends as that of a charming and cultured gentleman as well.

***His Excellency Sir John Woodhead's  
Speech at the Laying of the Founda-  
tion-stone of the Lady Brahourne  
College on 26th August 1939.***

**MR. FAZLUL HUQ, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

It is now about 15 years ago since Lord Lytton laid the foundation-stone of the Islamia College here in Calcutta. When he did so, he remarked that he, and the people assembled for the ceremony, were celebrating the beginning of the realisation in concrete form, of a desire which had occupied the mind of the Moslem community of Bengal for well nigh half a century. The occasion was a momentous one and I have no doubt that many of you here remember it as clearly as I do; remember what an important landmark it was, and for that matter, still is, in the history of Moslem education in Bengal. Since then we have advanced many steps—perhaps I should say, strides. What appeared, 15 years ago, to be a great advance, is now accepted as part of the normal amenities of educational life. To-day we are to establish another landmark in educational progress, a landmark no less important than the founding of the Islamia College and one that is eloquent of a new and broader outlook on the problems with which the educationist is perpetually faced. If I may be forgiven for drawing one more parallel between then and now, I will quote another brief extract from the address which was delivered on that occasion. Speaking of the delays which had prevented the College from being established as early as had been hoped, Lord Lytton said “That

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this weary period of waiting has at last been brought to an end is due to the energy of my late Minister, Mr. Fazlul Huq". To-day I think I shall be voicing the feeling of everybody present when I say that the self-same energy and idealism has been primarily responsible for making this ceremony possible. It must be a proud moment for you, Mr. Chief Minister, to realise that to-day, another of your ideals has been achieved and that in the Lady Brabourne College, just as in the Islamia College there will be, as well as a fine educational institution, a standing memorial to your deep and abiding interest in the welfare of Education in Bengal.

As to the necessity of the College there can, I think, be no two opinions. More than 2,000 girls in Bengal reach Matriculation standard each year and the number of these girls seeking admission to institutions of Collegiate standing, has been growing year by year. The existing Women's Colleges are full to overflowing and many of these girls are compelled to pursue their Higher Education under the most unfavourable circumstances—some in overcrowded classes, others at classes held in the men's Colleges outside the normal study period. Many, I have no doubt, have abandoned studies which they would otherwise have undertaken had circumstances been more favourable. Such conditions cannot be considered satisfactory, especially in Bengal where we have always prided ourselves on being in the forefront of educational progress. That full advantage will be taken of the facilities offered, I have not the slightest doubt and from what I hear of the enrolment which has already taken place in the accommodation hired for the first year students,

there does, in fact, appear to be very little fear for the future. The number of Moslem students who have already enrolled is very gratifying indeed, but I might perhaps take the opportunity of stressing the fact that my Government, whilst designing the institution primarily to meet the needs of the Moslem community, has no intention of excluding other communities, provided accommodation is available. And, in fact, non-Moslem girls are to be found amongst those already enrolled.

It has been said, and very appropriately said, that the launching of a great vessel is essentially an act of faith. The same thing can, I think, be said of the laying of a foundation-stone of an institution such as this which will, we hope, play a leading part in moulding the outlook and the hopes and aspirations of the young women of the future. It is an act of faith because none of us here who are taking part in to-day's function can know whether what we are doing is something from which only good will come and yet, that this is so, is what we believe and believe firmly and resolutely. Education is not a panacea for all ills, it is not always, as I am afraid it is sometimes alleged to be, the bringer of happiness; but it does open the door to opportunity, it does give, to those who can use it wisely, the chance of living a more tolerant life, of acquiring a broader outlook and thereby becoming a better citizen. In this, I think, lies the primary justification of an institution such as this, for we must realise that in the future our womenfolk will come more and more into the forefront of civic life.

It has, I think, been a particularly happy decision to name this institution "The Lady Brabourne College". Lady Brabourne showed, in many ways, her deep sympathy and interest in the welfare of the womenfolk of this Province. She gladly gave her consent to the proposal that this institution should be named after her and I trust that for many years to come her name will inspire the students of the College to face life with the same courage and unselfishness with which she and the late Lord Brabourne faced the problems of this Province and for which they gave so freely their energy and devotion.

I have now very great pleasure in laying this foundation-stone of the Lady Brabourne College and in doing so I express the hope that it will, in the future, worthily uphold the high traditions of education in Bengal.

***His Excellency Sir John Woodhead's  
Speech at the Birthday Anniversary of  
St. Andrew's Colonial Homes, Kalim-  
pong, on 27th September 1939.***

DR. GRAHAM, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

First of all, Dr. Graham, I want to thank you for all the kind things you have said about me and for the very pleasant welcome—or perhaps I should call it, the typical Kalimpong welcome—I have had to-day. When I left India more than two years ago, I little thought I should ever see Bengal again, far less this charming and familiar corner of the Himalayas which I had got to know and like so well during my official career. However, here I am and I must say that to me one of the most heartening things has been the ease with which I have picked up the threads of old associations and renewed old friendships. This is particularly so in the case of Kalimpong, not only because anybody who has lived in Bengal as long as I have, knows, and is proud of, the Homes but also because I have such very happy memories of my previous visit—on, I think, your thirty-sixth birthday. To-day you are 3 years older—or I should say 3 years and 3 days, for I am afraid circumstances made it impossible for me to come on the 24th which is your real birthday and the date on which I was originally invited. I might add in confidence that if Dr. Graham has forgiven me for being late, and I believe he has, it is the first time in my life that I have ever got away with it so easily with an Educationist of his experience.

But, I feel that to-day we are celebrating more than the thirty-ninth birthday of the Homes, for in February this year, Dr. Graham completed fifty years of devoted work in Kalimpong and India. Most of us, at Dr. Graham's age and with one half of his achievements to our credit would have long ago turned our thoughts towards a comfortable retirement—to a life where we could be free from the worries of daily routine and responsibility. But Dr. Graham's inexhaustible store of youth and energy has put this thought far from his mind, and when I see you, Dr. Graham, looking not a day older than when I last met you before leaving India, my only fear is that some morning I shall wake up to hear that you have rushed off on another round-the-world tour in order to meet once again your erstwhile pupils in the various quarters of the globe. If I were asked to suggest to those of you who will very shortly go out into the world, what should be your inspiration, I could not do better than ask you to keep always in mind this fifty years of devoted service which Dr. Graham has given.

The year which has elapsed since your last birthday has been an eventful one and many things which have happened may have a profound effect on the future of the Homes: successes have been achieved and amongst these I must count the entry of one of your old students, *via* the Universities of Calcutta and Edinburgh, into the Indian Civil Service and above all, the continued running of the Homes and the successful maintenance of the *esprit de corps* for which they are so well known. Many difficulties however have occurred and I know that one of the most bitter disappointments has been the

suspension, by the New Zealand Government, of the emigration permits hitherto granted to your pupils. I can only trust that the great influence which Dr. Graham wields and the high regard in which he is held wherever the work of the Kalimpong Homes is known, will be successful in re-opening this most suitable and attractive Dominion to you all.

Two other developments to which I would like to refer briefly are the failing support for the Mansfield Cottage and the necessity for the Special Deficit Appeal. The re-opening of the Mansfield Cottage in 1937 ranks, in my mind, as one of the most praise-worthy achievements of the Homes. It is not because the Cottage is of any unusual magnitude or splendour but because it was brought about by one of those generous co-operative efforts which so adequately express the fine tradition of the Homes. It is therefore most disappointing to learn that support from old pupils and friends has of late been diminishing. I feel certain that Dr. Graham is correct in attributing this largely to forgetfulness and I trust that the reminder, which I see has appeared in the latest number of your magazine, will call forth an appropriate response. The necessity for the Special Deficit Appeal which has been launched is, I am afraid, only too apparent. At the end of the last financial year, the working account showed a deficit of Rs. 40,000, partly, I am afraid, due to a falling off in subscriptions which last year were lower than they had ever been since 1915. No words of mine are necessary to emphasise the value of the work that has been done and is being done, by the Homes. Perhaps the best thing



I can do—for deeds speak louder than words—is to say that I have to-day made over a cheque of Rs. 1,500 to Dr. Graham, which, although it is not a very large amount, may serve to encourage others to subscribe also.

I may perhaps be forgiven if I continue to speak seriously on an occasion which should normally be celebrated in lighter vein. But we are living in critical times. The catastrophe which was foreshadowed last year has now occurred and many of the great nations of the world including India, are at war with each other. How this will react on the Homes as an institution it is too early to say, but we must face the possibility that funds may not be so plentiful as they have been in the past and we may have to tighten our belts as people are being compelled to do in many other parts of the world. But that the Homes will continue to march onwards during times however critical, I have no doubt, for they represent a great ideal and great ideals do not easily die.

The part played by O. G. B's. during the last war is still fresh in memory and I am confident that should the need arise they will respond again as loyally as they did in the past. Meanwhile the best advice I can give in these troubled times is that, one and all, you should carry on, keeping before you the traditions and ideals in which you have been nurtured, for in so doing you will be helping not only the Homes but also the cause of the Empire which is to-day so unmistakably the cause of all that is best in 20th century civilisation.

***His Excellency Sir John Woodhead's  
Speech at the Speech Day of the  
St. Paul's School, Darjeeling, on 23rd  
October 1939.***

MY LORD BISHOP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN—AMONG WHOM I, OF COURSE, INCLUDE THE BOYS OF THE SCHOOL,

I am delighted to have this opportunity of meeting you all here to-day and may I say at once how very much I appreciate the warmth of your welcome. As you know, I am no stranger to this part of Bengal or to St. Pauls and it is a very great pleasure to me to feel that one of my last official acts in India is associated with a school, the fortunes of which I have always watched with great interest. In saying this, I would like to join with you Mr. Rector and, I am sure, with everybody else present in congratulating one of your greatest friends and well-wishers, the Chairman of the Governing Body, on the attainment of his 76th birthday. I am not alone, I know, in realising what St. Pauls in particular and education in general in India owes to the Metropolitan and to see him here to-day as vigorous as ever is a pleasure that I shall not readily forget.

A speech day, I suppose, is the one occasion when the speaker can get up before his audience and inflict on them what he has got to say with a perfectly clear conscience. He might even add "you have been warned" for nothing could be more direct than the unspoken threat which, I think I am correct in saying, appears on every invitation card. However, even though we do call it a speech day,

even though we do warn you beforehand of the fate in store for you, I think the most hardened speakers amongst us must have recollections of our own school days, of the sigh of relief which we gave, audibly or inaudibly, according to the distance we were sitting from our Headmaster, when the last speech of the day was ended and we were able to make a determined bid for the really enjoyable part of the proceedings. Well, to cut a long story short, I intend to be as brief as possible in what I have to say.

It is usual on speech days to comment on examination results. I think, Mr. Rector, I detected a slight note of regret in your voice when you were not able on this occasion to report a repetition of the astounding success you achieved the year before in the School Certificate. But I am not an experienced educationist and so I must tread warily when I come to a subject such as the value of examination results. Still I have always had, at the back of my mind, the feeling, which I know others must have also, that no school has a right to score a 100 per cent. successes, year after year, in standard examinations. Not that I would agree for a moment with the down-right gentleman who assured you that success in examinations was incompatible with success in cricket or football—I always felt that mastering a quadratic equation was rather like dealing satisfactorily with a googly bowler. I feel, however, that examinations are meant to be difficult, meant on occasions to defeat our best endeavours. If we find one year that there has been a slight falling off in the standards of the year before, then we have an obstacle to surmount, a difficulty to overcome, and

it is these obstacles and difficulties which bring out the best that is in us. I say this not because I think that your examination results were in any way bad; they were in fact extremely good, but because I believe it is an excellent thing for us all to realise that we cannot always get the results we would like. It does us all good to be brought down to earth occasionally. I would like to apply what I have said as regards examinations with even greater force to games. Games are competitive; if they were not, we should probably not enjoy them as much, but unless the competitive spirit is tempered, and well tempered, with a love of sport for its own sake, much of its value is lost. That is why I was so glad to hear your Rector say that you enjoyed your games—win or lose. This may sound a little trite, but trite sayings have a habit of getting very close to the truth on occasions. If you can remember that results, though important, are not everything that matters; that the methods you adopt to achieve those results, the spirit in which you approach the task you have set yourselves to do, are also important, you will have gone far to attain that tone and *esprit de corps* which it is the object of every good school to inculcate into its pupils.

I say this because to-day the world is facing one of the most terrible ordeals that history has known—an ordeal brought on by the selfish egoism of a small group of men who have consistently thought only of results and who have ignored the moral implications of the methods which they have seen fit to use. They are, in short, men who are determined to get what they want regardless of the

feelings and sufferings of others. It may seem a far cry from the playing fields of St. Pauls to the terrible events which are taking place in Europe, but to-day the world is a small place and we cannot, in one hemisphere ignore what is going on in another.

There is no need for me to make any special appeal to old Paulites to give their services in the war: should the need arise I know well that they will answer the call as their predecessors have answered it before.

But the need for service is not confined to the field of battle, and will not cease when—some day—the war has been won: the future of India, the Empire and the world must depend on the character and outlook of those who survive these days of trial. Looking back on the tragedy that has fallen on Europe through blind aggression and through the repudiation of the spirit of give and take, I would ask you, especially the older boys among you, to strive to maintain, in your daily lives, in your relations with others and in your outlook on life's problems, those lessons of honour, clear thinking and consideration for others which it is the object of a liberal education to impart to the sons of free men.

And now let me conclude my Lord Bishop, by wishing you, your Governing Body and the Rector and all those associated with him in the service of the school continued and successful progress: to the boys also I wish success and at the same time I wish them a continuation of the popularity they have so rightly come to enjoy with all those who value the best traditions of education in the Province.

# **SPEECHES**

**delivered by**

**His Excellency The Right Hon'ble**

**SIR JOHN ARTHUR HERBERT, G.C.I.E.**

**Governor of Bengal**

**during**

**1939-40**



*[His Excellency spoke extempore following the lines of this speech.]*

***His Excellency's Speech at the St. Andrew's Day Dinner on 30th November 1939.***

CHIEFTAIN, MR. ROSS AND GENTLEMEN,

On behalf of the guests may I thank you wholeheartedly for your hospitality and for your kind welcome.

Owing to the tragic events of the last few months I find myself confronted with the awe inspiring task of addressing this gathering within a few days of my arrival in Bengal. Many of you, no doubt, cannot help thinking of the same occasion two years ago when, Lord Brabourne within two days of his arrival faced a similar ordeal with all that zest in life and with all that combination of vigour and charm for which he will always be remembered. His passing meant the loss of a great man : whom we all both admired or were prepared to follow and who was to us also a great friend. I know how hard it is going to be to stand in the place where he stood. I know also that I cannot claim that long and mature experience of administration in India that was possessed by those two distinguished civilians who were called to the helm of affairs in Bengal during these intervening months. I can only offer with all sincerity to place my services unreservedly at the disposal of the Government and the people of Bengal in the light of the duties laid upon me by His Majesty the King-Emperor : I can



only ask for forbearance and goodwill from all who have a common pride in this Province and a common interest in its welfare.

You must forgive me if I have, on this festive occasion, struck a note of solemnity—if I have for a moment spoken more in the capacity of a man called to office as Governor of Bengal, instead of speaking to you as what I really am to-night and what I am happy and honoured to be—your guest.

My trepidation would have been greater had I not already had a foretaste of Scottish hospitality and good-fellowship in Calcutta at that small but very distinctive gathering—the Wee Dinner. I would not go so far as to say that I am a habitual eater of Haggis—that would not be true in fact nor would it give you a true impression. On the contrary most of you would probably think that I was attempting to be what I am not, namely a Scotsman, or even an Englishman disguising myself as a Scotsman. Therefore, I take this early opportunity of explaining that I am principally a Welshman. That, however, is nothing for either me or you to regret. We of the Principality of Wales and you who come from north of the Tweed have many things in common. We, like you, have glens and burns and also rugged scenery and wild open spaces. We also, like you, on occasions wander upon our hills, hearing the more occasional scold of a grouse and also pondering upon the ways of men who in seeking riches have spoilt some of our most beautiful valleys. Like you I count myself fortunate to be able still to know and feel the inspiration of my native land. There is something in the ancestral earth from which a man has

sprung—some hidden source of strength that, if a man is fortunate, is not extinguished by the distractions of great cities, by the rush and turmoil of business or politics. What I have said of Scotland and Wales is true, I know, of every part of England—of Yorkshire, of the West Country, of East Anglia, of every corner of England—rich in its own individual history and traditions. We are wise not to belittle or forget these attachments—attachments of which we can be proud without envy or malice because all our local, racial or national loyalties are summed up in that country which we speak of—sometimes as Britain but more often than not as England. Surely we, who have been forged and welded together in the crucible of history, we who are still proud of our differences, yet unquestioned in our unity—surely we may believe without conceit or hypocrisy that we have learnt lessons that will be of permanent and incalculable value to this country in which we live and serve and to the world.

It has often been said that a Governor who comes to a Province direct from political life in England, comes without preconceived ideas. How far this may or may not be a blessing is no doubt a matter open to various opinions. It cannot be, however, that any man who has been bred up in the traditions of Parliamentary Government in England, can approach his task without some faith in the future. There are some things that he must believe in, some principles to which he must attach a fundamental value. These things are often intangible and hard to define in precise terms. We who have been brought up in that tradition have at the back of our minds a conception of ordered freedom,

of balance—between interests in the powers of State, of workmanlike administration, and, above all, of co-operation—notwithstanding political and racial differences between the diverse elements that go to make up that complex organism which for want of a better term we call the nation. It is principles such as these that have built up the unity that we call Britain and on such principles we are still building up that greater unity—the British Commonwealth of Nations.

If I had to put all this into one word, I could only choose the word “co-operation”; that, it seems to me, is the keynote of the outlook on life for which we must stand. It is that outlook on life that inspires our efforts in the present war—the greatest voluntary effort that we of the British Empire have yet been called upon to make. It is this principle of tolerance and united co-operation for the common good that is both the aim and inspiration of our struggle against Hitler and his gangster regime. We are fighting them because through their tactics of bullying, hatred and oppression they seek to destroy the hope of all those things that men fought and died for 21 years ago. The Nazi leaders have refused to gain their ends by peaceable means, by negotiations supported by good-will. Instead they have employed the policy—if such it can be called—of the child who says “I want I want” and breaks its toys and anything within reach amidst unpleasant screams and other forms of propaganda peculiar to itself. We are giving the only answer that can be given to a member of the family who makes life intolerable for the other occupants of the household.

As I see it, our war aims are identical with our peace aims. We are fighting not for forms or formulæ, not even for the outward forms of Government, but for the triumph of an ideal. It is for this reason that the free components of Empire all over the world, and men in India free to choose their course and declare their minds, have declared in no uncertain terms that forms and formulæ will be of no avail if the spirit of France and Britain and the great Dominions beyond the seas should not prevail in this struggle. This is not the time to enter into the controversies of politics in India—but I should like to say how glad I am to have come to a Province whose Government have declared without hesitation their unflinching co-operation in the war effort of the Empire.

I make no promises—and indeed there are none that I could make: but I trust and believe that Bengal will emerge from this hour of test stronger, prouder and more united by reason of the instinctive rallying of her Government to a cause that commands the real sympathies of the people of India.

The years to come will show how she will have gained by the uninterrupted continuance of her political life and experience.

Although I have been in Calcutta only some days, I have already been assured of co-operation and good-will from many diverse sources.

It will be my duty and my constant endeavour to foster in this Province the spirit of co-operation and mutual forbearance and in this task I believe, gentlemen, that I can count upon your sympathy and your help.

I hope you will forgive me for having spoken in perhaps rather a serious vein, but we live in serious times.

I thank you personally for your kind hospitality to-night—remembering 'the personal hospitality' which has already been shown to me.

I also thank you on behalf of all your guests this evening, for your kindness and for giving us this opportunity of enjoying your generous hospitality.

***His Excellency's Address to the National Welfare Units on 2nd December 1939.***

MR. FAZLUL HUQ AND GENTLEMEN,

I hope you will not think I am being ungenerous to your work when I say that my first reaction to the invitation to come and meet you this morning was to think of another great Indian Province, far away from here—a Province in which I first learned what Rural Reconstruction work really meant to the people of India. This was many years ago but I was fortunate in having as my guide and philosopher a man whose name must be familiar to you and who will always be remembered in connection with work such as you are now carrying on in Bengal. The Province I refer to was the Punjab and the man, a great friend of mine, was Mr. F. L. Brayne. Even now I have vivid recollections of how we used to ride together through Gurgaon District stopping at the villages whilst he chatted to the villagers, asked innumerable questions and explained to me the hundred and one ways in which his rural uplift schemes were bringing about a slow but definite change in the tenor of village life. He was an enthusiast and he made me realise, as I had never realised before, how vitally important his work was to the poorer folk of India. He did more than that: he proved to me that with enthusiasm on the one hand and a true spirit of co-operation on the other it is possible to bring about the most remarkable changes in a very short space of time.

I have mentioned the Punjab because it was when I actually saw the Rural Reconstruction in progress there, that I realised what it really meant. Here in Bengal I have not yet had the time or

opportunity to study rural conditions—though I mean to put this right as early as possible—but I do know from what I have read and what I have heard that the campaign for rural uplift here is a very live and real movement and that Bengal's effort in this direction need not fear comparison with any other area in India.

But even in spite of what has been achieved there is still much to be done. We must still wage relentless war on the three deadly enemies: Disease, Poverty and Ignorance, and until they are thoroughly routed we cannot afford to relax our efforts even for a moment. We must look upon them in the same way as the democratic and peace loving peoples of the world regard Hitler and his Nazis—as something standing in the way of ordered and decent civilised life. We must continue to maintain a steady and relentless pressure on these enemies of ours; to do so however we need front line troops and it is you, who are going out with these National Welfare Units, who are our front line troops. You are going out this time stronger in numbers and experience than ever before. You will reach remote villages in every District in the Province. In many of them I have no doubt you will find work of the same nature already going on. In others you will be pioneers. But, wherever you go, if you bring to your work—as I am sure you will—not only industry, but also enthusiasm I have no doubt that you will accomplish successfully the task before you.

And now gentlemen, I bid you godspeed. You go with the very best wishes of all of us who are here this morning.

***His Excellency's Addresses to the Gentlemen Invested at the Calcutta Durbar on 4th December 1939.***

**C.S.I.**

**MR. EDMOND NICOLAS BLANDY, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.,**

Entering the Indian Civil Service nearly 30 years ago you were awarded the C.I.E. in 1933 after distinguished service both in the Districts and in the Secretariat. Since then you have held with credit the post of Commissioner of the Chittagong Division and have officiated on no less than three occasions in the responsible and arduous post of Chief Secretary to the Government. Recently you were deputed on special duty in connection with proposals for the retrenchment and reorganisation of the Rural Police force and you now hold the important post of Member of the Board of Revenue. Your work throughout has been marked by efficiency, thoroughness and clarity of judgment whilst your special knowledge of the financial problems of the Province has been of the greatest help and value to Government.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I invest you with the Insignia of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India, of which His Majesty has been pleased to appoint you a Companion.

**C.I.E.**

**LIEUT.-COLONEL ERNEST WILLIAM O'GORMAN  
KIRWAN, C.I.E.,**

. . . Obtaining your first Commission in the year 1910, you remained in military employ until 1921 when you



were appointed officiating Resident Medical Officer in the Medical College, Calcutta. Subsequently you occupied various civil posts in Bengal and for the last 10 years have been working as Professor of Ophthalmic Surgery at the Medical College and Ophthalmic Surgeon at the College Hospital—a branch of therapeutics in which you have specialised. You also took the initiative in founding the Association for the Prevention of Blindness in Bengal—an Association which has done much valuable voluntary work and of which you are still the Honorary Secretary. Your professional eminence as well as your humanitarian services have gained for you the respect of the fellow members of your service and the esteem of the general public.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I invest you with the Insignia of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, of which His Majesty has been pleased to appoint you a Companion.

MR. JNANANKUR DE, C.I.E., I.C.S.,

Entering the Indian Civil Service 23 years ago you have been employed mainly as a Judicial Officer in which capacity you have rendered specially valuable services to Government by drawing up an administrative system which has since been incorporated into the High Court Rules for the whole of the Province. You now hold the substantive rank of a District and Sessions Judge and occupy the responsible post of First Land Acquisition Collector, Calcutta, where you have done valuable work in the Land Acquisition office

by your careful attention to detail and strict supervision of the administration.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I invest you with the Insignia of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, of which His Majesty has been pleased to appoint you a Companion,

### **Raja.**

**RAJA NALINAKSHA RAY,**

You are the head of the Wangsa sect of the Chakmas—an important community of the Chittagong Hill Tracts numbering some hundred thousand persons. During the later years of your father's life, and again after your installation as Chakma Chief in March 1935, you have performed the duties of the Tribal Head of the Chakmas with dignity and have been responsible for many administrative improvements within your jurisdiction.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy I now present you with the Sanad investing you with the title of Raja.

### **O.B.E.**

**CAPTAIN JAMES FORSYTH, O.B.E.,**

After serving for several years as an officer in the British India Steam Navigation Company, you were appointed, 16 years ago, as Deputy Shipping Master, Bombay. Thirteen years later you came to Calcutta to take the responsible and onerous post of Shipping Master—a position you are still holding.

In addition to performing your regular duties with credit and efficiency you have taken an active interest in voluntary welfare work amongst seamen and have been of the greatest help in directing this movement along wise and profitable channels.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I present you with the Badge of an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

**MR. JOSHUA FORBES RUSSELL, O.B.E.,**

You entered the Indian Service of Engineers in the year 1919 and throughout your career your work has been marked by conspicuous ability, energy and efficiency. In particular you earned special praise from the Department for the exceptionally competent manner in which you carried out your duties during the construction of the Damodar Canal and of its important headworks at Rondia.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I present you with the Badge of an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

**MR. GEORGE HENRY WELFORD, O.B.E.,**

You joined the Indian Ordnance Service more than 16 years ago and since 1929 have held the responsible post of Superintendent of the Rifle Factory at Ishapore. When it was decided to introduce the Vickers-Berthier gun into India, it was on your shoulders that the brunt of the work fell and due to your excellent administrative and technical ability that the task was carried through efficiently and within the allotted schedule of time.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I present you with the Badge of an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

**MAJOR BIJETA CHAUDHURI, O.B.E., I.M.S.,**

A doctor of great skill and an administrator of outstanding ability, your services to Government have been specially noteworthy since you were appointed Senior Medical Officer in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in 1935. During the trying period of the political hunger strike in 1937 your organisation and personal supervision was largely responsible for the fact that not a single life was lost whilst in 1938, and before your present appointment in Midnapore, you worked in addition to your other duties, as Superintendent of the Cellular Jail and succeeded in reviving and reorganising the local League of Health.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I present you with the Badge of an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

**MR. GEORGE BOND MORTON, O.B.E.,**

Occupying an important and responsible position in the well-known firm of Bird and Company you have devoted much of your time to voluntary work in Calcutta. When a Committee was set up in Bengal to raise a Memorial to His late Majesty King George V you became its Joint Honorary Secretary and undertook a great amount of the very heavy secretarial work involved. It was largely owing to your competent management that the very

satisfactory sum of 3½ lakhs of rupees was raised for the Memorial and that the work of the Committee was carried on efficiently and to the satisfaction of all concerned.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I present you with the Badge of an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

### **M.B.E.**

**RAI MOTI LAL BASU BAHADUR, M.B.E.,**

After serving as General Manager of the Wards Estate in Saran, you joined the Bettiah Estate, Bihar, in 1914 where you remained until your retirement this year; a period of just over 25 years. During this time you earned a reputation for probity, ability and hard work and gained the trust and affection of the tenants. Your work during the earthquake of 1934 was of great value and your energy and promptitude did much to mitigate the distress which occurred.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I hand you the Badge of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

**MR. DINES CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTI, M.B.E.,**

Joining the Bengal Medical Service in the year 1911, you were appointed, 4 years ago, to the responsible post of Professor of Clinical and Operative Surgery at the Medical College, Calcutta. Your work has earned for you a reputation as a sound and skilful Surgeon and the zealous and efficient

manner in which you have carried out your many and varied duties has made you a great asset to the surgical unit at this Hospital.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I hand you the Badge of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

**MR. ROBERT THOMAS MANSFIELD HAYTER, M.B.E.,**

From 1911 until 1922 you were in military employ in the Indian Medical Department. In the latter year you were appointed to a civil position in Bombay and six years later, became Assistant Director at the School of Tropical Medicine and Resident Medical Officer at the Carmichael Hospital, Calcutta. In this post you have performed your duties in a most efficient and able manner and in addition, have been responsible for placing the Endowment Fund of the School on its present satisfactory footing.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I hand you the Badge of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

**MR. ERIC JOHN HART JACOBSON, M.B.E.,**

Appointed to the East Indian Railway as an Assistant Traffic Superintendent, 27 years ago, you served with credit as a Transportation Officer of the Indian Army Reserve of Officers during the Great War of 1914-18. Returning to the service of the Railway you were promoted to the senior scale in 1926 and since then have distinguished yourself by your able management of the heavy and difficult Kumbh

**Mela traffic through the Moradabad Division of the United Provinces.**

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I hand you the Badge of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

**MR. ALEXANDER KEAY THOMS, M.B.E.,**

You are the General District Superintendent of the Begg Dunlop Jute Mills and have rendered outstanding services in connection with the welfare of the labour force under your control. In addition to securing for them improved living amenities, you have been responsible for several mechanical safety devices which have been subsequently adopted by the Factory Inspection Staff. You also rendered valuable voluntary services during your term of office as Chairman of the Bhatpara Municipality and as a member of the Bhatpara Bench of Honorary Magistrates.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I hand you the Badge of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

**MR. ANTONY FURTADO, M.B.E.,**

Entering Government service in the year 1905 you rose, previous to your retirement 7 months ago, to the post of Rummaging Inspector of the Preventive Service, Calcutta. Your work was of a uniformly high order and you showed conspicuous ability in organising action against smuggling activities—both on land and water and, by your zeal and efficiency, earned the respect of your staff and the trust of your superior officers.

~~In~~ In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I hand you the Badge of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

MR. KASI SANKAR MITRA, M.B.E.,

Since October 1928 you have been Secretary of the Medical College Hospitals, Calcutta—a post in which you have rendered conspicuous and eminent services and have contributed greatly to the welfare of that institution. You have also held the post of Secretary to the Finance Committee, Medical College Centenary, when you were largely responsible for the great success which attended the celebration. Recently your services have been further requisitioned as Secretary to an expert committee which has been appointed to enquire into the question of the establishment of a Medical College at Dacca.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I hand you the Badge of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

KHAN BAHADUR SAIYID MOSHFIQUE SALEHEEN, M.B.E.,

After a distinguished career which culminated in your appointment as Registrar of Assurances, Calcutta, you retired from Government service and are now devoting yourself to various spheres of public work. You are an Honorary Magistrate at Barrackpore in which capacity you sit for 4 days a week and are actively connected with numerous other public institutions in that locality and in particular, are a member of the Barrackpore Local Board and a non-official visitor of the Dum Dum Central Jail.



In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I hand you the Badge of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

### **Khan Bahadur.**

**KHAN BAHADUR GULAMHOSSEIN ALLIDINA DOSSANI,**

A prominent figure in the commercial life of Bengal you have contributed materially to the development of the film industry in India—an industry of which you may claim to be one of the pioneers. You also hold the responsible position of agent to His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad and Berar in Calcutta and belong to a Muslim family with traditions of unimpeachable loyalty to the Crown.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Khan Bahadur and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

### **Rai Bahadur.**

**RAI HIRAN LAL MUKHARJI BAHADUR,**

You have a long and honourable record of public service in this Province, both in the Districts and in the Secretariat. During the course of your District work you officiated as Additional District Magistrate, 24-Parganas, whilst, in your present post of Additional Deputy Secretary in the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department, you have fully maintained your reputation as an officer of outstanding merit and ability.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Bahadur and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

**RAI RAGHABENDRA NATH BANARJI BAHADUR.,**

You joined the Bengal Police as a Deputy Superintendent in 1917 and 4 years later, were appointed to hold charge of the Serampore Sub-division. During this period you made noteworthy efforts to start village defence parties and to encourage co-operation between the public and the police, and 3 years later in consideration of your excellent record of work, you were awarded the King's Police Medal. Since then you have held charge of the police work in Munshiganj Sub-division and in various Districts being confirmed in the grade of Superintendent in 1935. Your work has been of a uniformly high standard and your efforts to improve the relations between police and public have attracted wide notice and universal commendation.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Bahadur and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

**RAI PROBHA† NATH MOOKHERJEE BAHADUR.,**

Appointed as a Sub-Inspector in the Calcutta Police in the year 1914 you have since risen to the position of Assistant Commissioner, South Town. Your record of work has been uniformly good and

on several occasions you have been specially commended for bravery—two of the most notable being during the carters' riots in 1930 and again on the occasion of the arrest of an armed political offender in 1934 for which you were awarded the Indian Police Medal for Gallantry.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Bahadur and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

### **Shifa-ul-Mulk.**

**SHIFA-UL-MULK HAKIM NISAR AHMAD KHAN,**

A Hakim of established reputation and of more than 17 years standing, you have done a great deal to advance the interests of the system of medicine which you practise. In addition to giving free treatment and medicine to poor patients in your Muktab, you give free tuition in the Unani system of medicine to Maulvis who are learned in the Arabic tongue. You are also an active member of the Executive Committee of the Calcutta Moslem Orphanage and take great interest in the Primary School at Bally which you maintain and in which education is imparted to the sons of poor Moslem labourers.

I now congratulate you on receiving the title of Shifa-ul-Mulk which His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to confer upon you.

### **Khan Bahadur.**

**KHAN BAHADUR QUAZI MAHMOODUR RAHMAN,**

You were made a Khan Sahib in the year 1934 in recognition of your long record of loyal and

efficient service in the Registration Department and of your many contributions towards works of public utility. Since then you have continued to take an active interest in public work and held, until you retired in July last, the post of Registrar of Assurances, Calcutta, in which you discharged your responsible duties with zeal and ability, and earned not only the commendation of the Department but the respect of all members of the public.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to confer upon you the title of Khan Bahadur and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

### **Rai Bahadur.**

**RAI SUBODH CHANDRA DATTA BAHADUR,**

You entered the Bengal Provincial Judicial Service in December 1910 and retired nearly two years ago after 28 years' of valuable and devoted service. For the last 3 years you worked as a District and Sessions Judge, in which capacity you fully maintained the reputation as a hard-working and exceptionally capable Judicial Officer which you had previously earned.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Bahadur and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

**RAI JITENDRA NATH RAY BAHADUR,**

Joining the Bengal Police as a Deputy Superintendent of Police in 1917, you first officiated as an Additional Superintendent about 15 years ago.

In 1926 you were placed in charge of the police work of Jessore District where you earned special commendation in dealing with an apprehended communal riot. Subsequently you worked in several Districts becoming Superintendent of Police, Bogra, in 1934 where you did invaluable work outside your regular duties in organising sports in schools and generally in helping unemployed young men to obtain facilities for healthy recreation. You were promoted to the Indian Police the same year and 4 years later, became Superintendent of Police, Nadia, where you have continued to maintain the high reputation which you established previously.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Bahadur and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

**RAI BASANTA KUMAR DAS BAHADUR,**

Entering the Bengal Civil Service 29 years ago you have to your credit a long and honourable record of District work. You have held charge of several Subdivisions and in particular did excellent work at Howrah Sadar during the difficult years from 1931 to 1935. You have had special experience in the Court of Wards Branch where your work as Wards Deputy Collector in the Districts of Rajshahi and Dacca has been singled out for particular commendation.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Bahadur and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

**RAI JYOTISH CHANDRA GUPTA BAHADUR,**

You have completed nearly 30 years of Government service and have throughout shown yourself to be a hard-working, conscientious and loyal officer of very high ability. In the responsible post of Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax, Calcutta, which you at present hold, you have earned the confidence of your superior officers and the respect of those who have been appointed to serve under you.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Bahadur and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

**Sardar Sahib.****SARDAR SAHIB NATHA SINGH,**

You joined the Calcutta Police as a Sub-Inspector nearly 34 years ago being promoted to the rank of Inspector in 1919 and to that of an Acting Assistant Commissioner 15 years later. During the Great War of 1914-18, you performed work of outstanding merit in the Detective Department where your duties frequently involved you in considerable personal risk. You have recently retired from service but before doing so you worked for some years as Assistant Commissioner in the Public Vehicles Department, Calcutta, where you were markedly successful in dealing with members of the Punjabi and Sikh communities who occupy an important position in the motor transport business.

His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Sardar Sahib, and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

### **Khan Sahib.**

**KHAN SAHIB MAULVI MOHAMED MOHSIN KHAN,**

A businessman of Calcutta, President of the Calcutta Khilafat Committee and a member of the Working Committee of the Calcutta Muslim League, you enjoy the confidence and respect of the Muslim community of Calcutta. You have taken an active interest in the growth of the Trade Union Movement in Bengal and, as one of its pioneers, have always exercised a sound and reasonable influence over its development.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Khan Sahib and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

**KHAN SAHIB MAULVI MOHAMMAD HEDAYETULLA,**

. You are the Head Assistant of the Alipore Collectorate and outside your regular work, you have a splendid record of public service in the Tollygunge Municipality of which you have been Chairman since 1934. Your Chairmanship has been marked by conspicuous ability and industry, and the fact that you have recently been re-elected to that position is a tribute to the esteem in which you are held.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Khan Sahib and I have much pleasure in investing you with the badge of that title.

**KHAN SAHIB MAULVI ABDUL GHAFUR,**

Appointed as a Sub-Inspector to the Calcutta Police in March 1920 your ability marked you out for early promotion and in 1926 you were transferred to the Special Branch in connection with prevention of smuggling. Three years later when the administration of this branch of the work was taken over by the Port Police, you also went to that Department where you continued to work with striking success. Amongst the more notable cases in which you displayed outstanding ability are the Triton Insurance Fraud Case and what has come to be known as the Drug Smuggling Conspiracy Case.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Khan Sahib and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

**Rai Sahib.****RAI SAHIB KIRIT BHUSAN DAS, M.L.A.,**

You have a long and honourable record of public service in the District of Murshidabad. For 25 years you have been either President of the Panchayet or President of the Daffarpur Union Board and have held the responsible post of Chairman of the Daffarpur Debt Settlement Board. You are also Chairman of the Jangipur Local Board and an active member of the Murshidabad District Board and District School Board.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.



**RAI SAHIB NALINAKSHA ROY,**

Your work for the amelioration of rural conditions in the Garh-Bhawanipur Union Board has been of outstanding merit. You have been President of the Board since 1921 and are mainly responsible for its excellent achievements amongst the more notable of which are, the sinking of a large number of deep tube-wells, the establishment of a charitable dispensary and the maintenance of a number of important village roads. Since 1935 you have been an elected member of the Uluberia Local Board in the affairs of which you have taken a keen and active interest.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

**RAI SAHIB SATYENDRA NATH RAY,**

You entered Government service 32 years ago and have consistently performed your duties with zeal and energy. Your work in the Political Department, of which you are the Head Assistant, has gained for you the confidence of your superior officers. In particular you performed services of outstanding merit during the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1932 when the volume of work with which the Department had to deal imposed a very great strain on all concerned.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

**RAI SAHIB MANMATHA KRISHNA RAY,**

You are Sub-Registrar of Chuadanga in the District of Nadia and in addition to your regular duties in the Registration Department, you have been of the greatest assistance to the local authorities by the work you have done as an Honorary Magistrate, a position you have held for nearly 16 years. Since you were vested with first class powers in 1933, you have been able to take over a large number of important criminal cases thus materially assisting in the administration of the Subdivision.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

**RAI SAHIB KANAI LAL CHATTERJEE,**

You have served in the Calcutta Small Cause Court for the last 36 years and have held, since June 1920, the responsible position of Deputy Registrar of the Warrant Department. Whilst discharging your regular duties with ability and tact, you have also done very valuable work in organising a social club for the Assistants of the Court, in founding a Mutual Benefit Fund for the dependants of deceased Assistants and in aiding many other voluntary bodies.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

**RAI SAHIB BASUDEB KAVIRAJ,**

Joining the Bengal Police as a Sub-Inspector 31 years ago you first officiated as an Inspector in 1914 being confirmed in that rank 10 years later. In 1932 you were promoted to act as a Deputy Superintendent, a grade in which you have since been made permanent. Both as a Circle Inspector and an Inspector in the District Intelligence Branches of Tippera, Mymensingh and Howrah, your work was marked by conspicuous ability and devotion to duty and in particular, you were instrumental in detecting a number of dacoity cases and breaking up formidable dacoit gangs in Mymensingh and Asansol.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib and I have much pleasure in investing you with the badge of that title.

**RAI SAHIB BINODE BEHARI BANERJEE,**

Joining the Bengal Police 33 years ago you quickly distinguished yourself by the work you did in connection with several complicated and dangerous political cases. In 1914 you were transferred to the Calcutta Police and were confirmed as an Inspector 14 years later. Your record of work has been uniformly good and you have officiated on more than one occasion as an Assistant Commissioner.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

**RAI SAHIB NANI GOPAL CHATTERJEE.**

You joined the Eastern Bengal Railway 36 years ago as a clerk and by dint of application, zeal and ability, rose to the post of Office Superintendent in the Mechanical Department—the senior clerical post of that Department. In addition to your regular duties, you served on a number of Welfare and Education Committees connected with the Railway, as well as on the managing committees of two of the Railway Co-operative Credit Societies.

You have recently retired and in recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib. I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

**RAI SAHIB BIMLA CHARAN MULLICK,**

You first entered the service of the East Indian Railway in a temporary capacity 37 years ago. Since then you have occupied many posts including a period of deputation in the Military Accounts Department, Meerut, during the last Great War, and have now, by virtue of the ability you have consistently displayed, attained the position of Office Superintendent in the Chief Engineer's Office. Your work has throughout been marked by zeal and efficiency and in recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib. I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

**Khan Sahib.****KHAN SAHIB MAULVI MOLLA ABDUL MAJID,**

You have served with ability and credit as a Deputy Magistrate for more than 15 years. After working as Sadar Subdivisional Officer, Tipperah, and Subdivisional Officer, Uluberia, you were placed on special duty in the Political and Appointment Departments from 1934 to 1935. Subsequently, you became Assistant Secretary to Government in the Department of Agriculture and Industries—an appointment which you still hold. Your work throughout has been marked by zeal and energy and has gained for you the confidence and trust of your superior officers.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Khan Sahib and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

**KHAN SAHIB MAULVI ABDUL JUBBAR,**

You are an active and influential labour leader in Bengal and you have, throughout, exerted your influence towards the development of constitutional Trade Unions and the conduct of labour disputes on ordered and reasonable lines. By your efforts at conciliation, you have succeeded in preventing many strikes and bringing about many compromises in difficult disputes. In particular, your services were of great help to the authorities in settling the recent strike in the Indian Iron and Steel Company's Works at Burnpur and Kulti.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Khan Sahib and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

**KHAN SAHIB ABDUL HAKIM,**

You entered the Bengal Education Service 9 years ago and did work of great value as District Inspector of Schools in Mymensingh District—the first District in Bengal to introduce fully the Bengal Primary Education Act of 1930. In spite of your comparatively short service, your excellent record in Mymensingh resulted in your appointment as Special Officer for Primary Education—a post which you still hold and in which you have shown yourself to be a capable and efficient officer of the Department.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Khan Sahib and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

**KHAN SAHIB MAULVI ABDUS SAMAD,**

A landholder of Nazerpore in the District of Howrah you have taken an active interest in all matters pertaining to village uplift and rural welfare. In addition to making generous donations for purposes of this nature, you are a member of several public bodies including the Uluberia Local Board, the Benapur Union Board and the Benapur Debt Settlement Board.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Khan Sahib and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

### **Rai Sahib.**

**RAI SAHIB GIRIJA BHUSAN RAY,**

Joining the Calcutta Police as a Sub-Inspector nineteen years ago, you were posted to the Special Branch in 1923, in which year you were awarded the Indian Police Medal. You are now an Inspector and your record of work is outstandingly good. Particularly worthy of mention are the services you rendered in connection with the Meerut Conspiracy Case, the Lebong Shooting Outrage and the Inter-Provincial Conspiracy Case. You have also been instrumental in effecting the arrest of many terrorist absconders and obtaining much valuable information in connection with subversive movements.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

**RAI SAHIB NANAK CHAND DHUSHYA,**

As Secretary of the Scheduled Caste Association in Calcutta you have done valuable work in organising the Association on sound and constitutional lines. You have also been instrumental in forming Scheduled Caste Labour Unions and in directing their development along channels which have led to a better understanding with the

employers. In addition to this you are Secretary of the Bengal Chamber of Labour and the Bengal National Jute Workers' Union—positions which have earned for you the respect and esteem of the labour movement in this Province.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

**RAI SAHIB SAKTI BHUSAN RAY,**

You entered Government service more than 29 years ago and have, by dint of application and hard work, risen to the position of Senior Head Assistant in the Medical Branch of the Department of Public Health and Local Self-Government—one of the most responsible posts in the clerical service of the Secretariat. Throughout your career you have shown yourself to be an officer of exceptional ability and integrity and in particular, your work has, on more than one occasion, resulted in considerable economies being effected in the Department.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

**RAI SAHIB MANINDRANATH MITTER,**

You have been employed in the office of the Military Secretary to the Governor of Bengal for more than 25 years and for 10 years have been Chief Accountant dealing with large sums of money.



You have also acted at various times as Superintendent of that office and have consistently given satisfaction to your superior officers and have shown yourself to be a hard-working and reliable Assistant.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

**RAI SAHIB BHUPATI CHATARJI,**

You have worked for 34 years in His Majesty's Mint, Calcutta, and during the last 6½ years, you have held the responsible position of Accountant, an appointment which requires exceptional technical and administrative ability and involves the control of the Mint Master's office. You have shown yourself to be an officer of great ability and integrity and your services have been specially valuable and noteworthy during periods of emergency.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

**RAI SAHIB BIRENDRA NATH CHATTERJEE,**

You were appointed as a subordinate on the East Indian Railway in 1913 and since then, you have risen to become the Treasurer of the Railway—a post which comprises very responsible and onerous duties. Your work has been repeatedly commended, especially for the efficiency with which you have administered the elaborate organisation in connection with the disbursement of pay and other dues of the staff.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

### **Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Silver.**

**MR. SURESH CHANDRA DUTTA,**

Joining the 7th Carmichael College Medical Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade in 1927, you became Secretary of the Division two years later. Since 1931 you have been Honorary Surgeon of the Calcutta Ambulance Corps and on many occasions you have been in charge of Ambulance work at fairs and other large functions, not only in the Calcutta area but as far afield as Puri. Particular mention should also be made of your work as medical officer in charge of the St. John Ambulance and Red Cross hospital at Monghyr during the Bihar earthquake of 1934.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Silver for public service in India.

**MR. HAROLD WILLIAM MASTERS,**

Your work as a Missionary in India goes back for nearly 25 years during which time you have devoted yourself wholeheartedly to the cause of village welfare. In 1921 you did excellent work during a cholera epidemic in the District of Mymensingh and again 5 years later, you rendered valuable assistance at the time of an outbreak of the same disease at Rajbari. During the floods of 1938 your help was invaluable to the District authorities

of Faridpur and you were able to take over complete charge of one of the relief centres dealing with 8 Union Boards.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Silver for public service in India.

### **Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Bronze.**

**MR. ABDUL MAJED,**

A member of the Bengal Medical Service, you worked with marked success and efficiency in the Bengal Vaccine Institute of which you were Superintendent until you proceeded on leave a short time ago. You dealt most efficiently with the fluctuating and frequently very heavy demands for lymph vaccine and by your careful management effected many economies in the running of the institute.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Bronze for public service in India.

**MR. HARIPADA BISWAS,**

As President of the Barrackpur Union Board in the District of Khulna, you have earned for yourself a reputation as an energetic and successful rural worker. You have yourself undertaken much of the collection work and are largely responsible for the excellent sanitation of your Union and for the existence of many good roads. Yours was the first Union Board in the District to establish a Union Board dispensary and you have consistently shown a keen interest in this branch of Union Board administration.

**On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Bronze for public service in India.**

**MAULVI MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHIM,**

As the Vice-President of Gotistha Union Board, Secretary of the Fatepur Embankment Committee and Rural Reconstruction Committee in the District of Burdwan, you were responsible for saving thousands of bighas of land and many kutchra homesteads from inundation by the Adjoy river. You achieved this largely by force of personal example which enabled you to carry out the greater part of the work by voluntary labour.

**On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Bronze for public service in India.**

**MR. ANANTA CHANDRA BAG,**

As President of the Anandapur Union Board and Chairman of the Anandapur Debt Settlement Board in the District of Midnapur, posts which ill health have recently compelled you to resign, you raised the administration to a high level of efficiency. In particular you worked assiduously for the improvement of cattle within your jurisdiction and by the well organised system of watch and ward, which you were instrumental in starting, improved the administration of law and order.

**On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Bronze for public service in India.**

**BAHU SANAT KUMAR CHOWDHURY,**

A member of the Bengal Medical Service, you began your career 32 years ago and soon established a reputation as a zealous and efficient officer. Since May 1935, you have held your present appointment as Sub-Assistant Surgeon at the Sadar Hospital, Bogra, a post in which you have earned both the confidence of the public and the respect of your superior officers.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Bronze for public service in India.

**MAULVI GAZNAFAR ALI SARKAR,**

A capable and helpful Union Board President, you have been instrumental in providing the Sathnal Union Board with as many as 36 tube-wells as well as with a number of village roads and khals. In the sphere of debt conciliation your work has also been of the utmost value and you have filled with credit the post of Chairman of the Sathnal Debt Settlement Board. Your influence has always been used in the interests of law and order and your public work has gained for you the respect and liking of all communities.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Bronze for public service in India.

**British Empire Medal.****MAULVI SHAIKH SOLOMON,**

A Chargeman in the Drawing Office of the Ishapore Rifle Factory you have been in Government service for more than 24 years during which

time you have gained the reputation\* of being a sound and reliable employee. Your experience and efficiency were of great value during the introduction of the Vickers-Berthier gun into India and you were largely responsible for the excellent work which was done in the Drawing Office in this connection.

In recognition of your good services, His Majesty the King-Emperor has been pleased to award you the Medal of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

MR. FREDERICK GEORGE MARSHALL,

Eighteen years ago you were recruited from the United Kingdom as an Assistant Foreman in the Rifle Factory, Ishapore. You were promoted Foreman in 1930 and since then have been in charge of the important Machine gun Section—a post in which you rendered very valuable service during the production of the Vickers-Berthier gun.

In recognition of your good services, His Majesty the King-Emperor has been pleased to award you the Medal of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

MR. SYDNEY HENRY KENNEDY,

An Inspector of Works on the East Indian Railway, you have to your credit more than 29 years of loyal and efficient service, a number of which have been spent in charge of Howrah—one of the most responsible charges of the Railway. In particular you showed outstanding efficiency during

the remodelling of Howrah station—a task which largely owes its successful completion to your organising ability.

In recognition of your good services, His Majesty the King-Emperor has been pleased to award you the Medal of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

MR. BHUPATI MOHAN BASU,

You have a long and honourable record of service under different Departments of Government and throughout your career you have been consistently commended for your methodical work, by your superior officers. For the last ten years and until your retirement this year you were Sheristadar of the District Judge's office, Birbhum, in which District you rendered services of exceptional value to the authorities during the famine relief operations of 1930.

In recognition of your good services, His Majesty the King-Emperor has been pleased to award you the Medal of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

***Address of Welcome presented by the  
Bengal Mahajan Sabha on 9th December  
1939.***

On behalf of the Bengal Mahajan Sabha, we accord Your Excellency and The Lady Mary Herbert a most cordial welcome to this great Province and to this great city as the Governor and representative of His Majesty the King-Emperor of India, at this juncture in the history of the world in general, and India and Bengal in particular. We need hardly mention how greatly we appreciate the privilege of meeting Your Excellency who has come out to our country from Westminster with a freshness of outlook on men and things here, which will make for meting out even-handed justice between community and community and interest and interest.

The Bengal Mahajan Sabha is a mercantile organisation. We represent two main commercial intefests, viz., inland trade and indigenous banking of the Province. In consenting to accept an humble address at our hands Your Excellency has in fact shown your readiness to establish the first contact with the heart of rural Bengal, whose economic interests are represented by our Sabha.

Much as we like to avoid all controversial matters on an occasion like the present, we shall be false to ourselves if we fail to give expression to the loss of our seat on the Provincial Legislature through the arbitrary recommendations of the Hammond Committee against the clear unequivocal and concurrent recommendations of the Government



of Bengal and the Provincial Franchise Committee and against the unanimous opinion of the Press and the Public. Now that an early revision of the details of the constitution embodied in the Government of India Act has been promised by His Majesty's Government at the conclusion of the present War, in which our destinies are cast with Great Britain, we shall approach Your Excellency's Government in proper time for redress of our grievances ; but we are loth to let this opportunity pass without a reference to the shrinkage, in matters that really concern us, of the opportunities of public service on the part of this Sabha owing to disenfranchisement. Important enactments like the Bengal Money-Lenders Bill 1939 are passing through the legislature without any opportunity on our part to have a say in the matter as we are not on the Provincial Legislature. Similarly other important matters affecting inland trade are also being passed through in the legislatures in our absence.

The new Constitution has been in operation for nearly three years and the output of social legislation has been considerable. But the need for the economic reconstruction of the country-side has grown greater than before. The operation of the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act has broken down the old credit system but has not yet substituted any new credit facilities for agriculturists, with the result that the purchasing power of cultivators has gone down, thereby greatly interfering with the trade and commerce of the Province. The cultivation and marketing of jute being a very important item in the economic life of Bengal, its proper control awaits the careful attention of your

administration. Greater industrialization of the country in view of the enhanced facilities afforded by the War is one of the most important undertakings awaiting the preoccupation of Your Excellency's Government. With the help of capable Ministers we have no doubt that Your Excellency will succeed in fulfilling the high expectations that have been raised by Your Excellency's appointment to this great office from the ranks of English public life and its great statesmen.

We do hope very sincerely that the few salient matters which we have ventured to lay before Your Excellency may be found helpful and the children of the soil of Bengal may have cause to look upon Your Excellency's administration as real Provincial Autonomy in which Provincial interests are not sacrificed at the altar of political expediency.

Wishing Your Excellency and The Lady Mary Herbert health, happiness and prosperity during the next few years in this country and for a long, long time to come afterwards.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Address of Welcome presented by the Bengal Mahajan Sabha on 9th December 1939.***

MR. PODDAR, GENTLEMEN,

First of all I would like to take the opportunity of thanking you for the good wishes you have extended to my wife and myself on this occasion. It is a great pleasure to me to have this opportunity of having the views of the mercantile interests which you represent.

I can well understand your continuing sense of disappointment at losing that special representation in the Legislature which you formerly enjoyed and which at one time you had reason to hope would be continued. I have also had enough experience of political life to appreciate the fact that it is only by stressing and reiterating your claims that you can ensure that they are not lost sight of. You will understand me when I say that this is a matter upon which I can express no present opinion on merits. I have however made myself acquainted with its history and cannot do better than reiterate the view which the late Lord Brabourne expressed to you on this matter almost exactly two years ago. As he observed, "the framework of the Legislature once having been settled, the Constitution for obvious reasons provides no quick and easy way of altering it and I can only express the hope that the worth and influence of your members will serve to secure for them through the medium of special or general constituencies a degree of representation not

disproportionate to the importance of your Association." I agree that political developments have taken place since then, but I think perhaps it would be going rather far to read into the recent statements of His Majesty's Government a declared intention to undertake a revision of every detail of the scheme of representation embodied in the Government of India Act. On the other hand, as Lord Brabourne doubtless had in mind, the Act as it stands provides a machinery by which such revisions of detail can in due time be considered provided that the necessary degree of support is forthcoming for them in the Legislature itself.

I have listened with interest to your remarks on the subject of rural credit. Though your Sabha has not been represented as an Association in the Provincial Legislature, you will perhaps agree that in this matter the point of view of the interests that you represent has by no means gone unheard in the Legislature, and I can assure you that my Ministers have not been unaware of it: that it has failed to predominate in the Legislature is by no means attributable to lack of capable advocacy.

You will not, I think, expect me to comment upon the merits of legislation the operation of which is still the subject of debate in the Legislature. There are however grounds for the view that, quite irrespective of legislation, the old system of rural credit was in process of breaking down under the incubus of past indebtedness coupled with the drastic and lasting curtailment in the cash income of the cultivator which resulted from a general fall in world prices. You will also agree with me that credit alone cannot provide sustained purchasing

power: such power must come from successful production, adequate demand and effective marketing and transport. Neither my Ministers nor I underestimate how important a part in production, purchasing, marketing and transport is played by sound and appropriate facilities for credit: to the reconstruction of such facilities, having regard to the lessons of the past, my Government are devoting their earnest attention. They have been at pains to impress on the cultivator the need for credit worthiness—for avoidance of extravagance and improvidence: they would appeal at the same time for a recognition of the fact that the losses of recent years cannot but be shared by all whose interests are bound up with the agricultural prosperity of this Province.

The control of the cultivation and marketing of jute is an important matter that you have mentioned: it is one which is receiving the close and detailed attention of my Government and the Agricultural Produce Marketing Bill and the Jute Regulation Bill, which are due to be considered by the Legislature very shortly, will embody the results of this examination.

The question of the industrialisation of the Province is also under expert examination and an Industrial Survey Committee consisting of experienced businessmen has already been appointed and has submitted two interim reports on which appropriate action has already been taken. When the main and final report is received, my Government will lose no time in subjecting it to careful examination and taking necessary action upon it.

I have not attempted, gentlemen, to give you an exhaustive reply to the several matters of great interest and some complexity that your address has raised. Let me say however how much I have valued this opportunity of acquainting myself at this early stage with the nature of some of the problems of this Province which will claim my continuing interest.

***Address of Welcome presented by the  
Marwari Association on 9th December  
1939.***

We, the members of the Marwari Association, representing the interests of the Marwari Community, beg leave to offer Your Excellency and The Lady Mary Herbert, our most respectful and cordial welcome on your assumption of the exalted office of the Governor of Bengal.

With Your Excellency's permission, we take this opportunity of assuring Your Excellency of our deep and heartfelt devotion and loyalty to His Majesty's Throne and of our constant prayer to the Almighty for the speedy and victorious termination of the disastrous war in which the British Government has felt compelled to enter to protect and uphold the cause of justice and righteousness, and in common with all classes of His Majesty's Indian subjects we are confident that victory will ultimately be on the side of the British Government and that Hitlerism and all that it stands for will be crushed for all time to come.

As Your Excellency is aware, we are a commercial people long domiciled in Bengal, having a considerable portion of its trade, commerce and industry in our hands. Interested as we are, in the industrial regeneration and commercial development of this Province, we sincerely cherish the hope that under Your Excellency's capable guidance measures essential to the industrial progress of this Province will be adopted, and that Your Excellency's Administration will be characterised by successive efforts

to improve the economic life of the Province by an intensive development of its material resources.

It is well known to Your Excellency that the Jute Industry forms the back-bone of the industrial life of this Province and this fibre being the main money crop of the agriculturists we may confidently say that the pre-eminent position of this industry in the economic life of the Province strengthens the demand that it should more effectively and more completely serve the broad interests of the Province as a whole. We hope and trust that Your Excellency's Government will bestow careful attention to this great industry in such a manner that the legitimate interests of the producers and every section of the trade may be amply safeguarded.

A matter of the greatest importance to us to which we feel it our duty to respectfully invite Your Excellency's attention is, the unfortunate Communal question which has been troubling the minds of all leaders since the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy in this Province. In Bengal, the destiny of which it has pleased His Majesty to place in your hands, we form an important section of the people and as such, are equally interested with our sister communities in the progress and advancement of our country in every direction; and we fervently look forward to you to bring about the communal harmony and good-will, both of which are so essential for the realization of India's just aspirations. On our part we may assure Your Excellency, that as in the past so in the future also, our endeavours will always be towards the furtherance of this object.



It is a matter of deep regret to us that our Association still suffers for want of direct representation on the local bodies concerned with trade and commerce, such as the Calcutta Port Trust, the Calcutta Improvement Trust, the Local Railway Advisory Committees, etc., and we are confident that by your valuable advice to the Government of the Province, it would not take long to ensure that the representation of important interests like those represented by our Association, will receive their due share.

We are aware that Your Excellency's career in life elsewhere, has been an unbroken chain of success. We fervently pray that your administration of this Province may add a bright and valuable link to it, and that health, happiness and prosperity, may always be yours and of The Lady Mary Herbert, during your stay in Bengal.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Address of  
Welcome presented by the Marwari  
Association, on 9th December 1939.***

BABU MUKUND LALL CHIRIPAL, GENTLEMEN,

Your community and the important role it has played in the development of commerce and trade, not only in Bengal, but throughout India and beyond its frontiers, is not unknown to me and I welcome the opportunity of meeting you this morning and hearing your views on the many and varied problems to which you have referred in your address. I also take this opportunity of conveying to you my deep appreciation of your expression of loyalty to the Throne in this time of grave international conflict and my gratitude for the cordial welcome you have given to my wife and myself.

You have raised many questions concerning the economic progress and welfare of this Province. As you will realise, with the introduction of Provincial Autonomy the initiation of policy in this respect is a matter which primarily concerns the responsible Ministry and is subject to free and unrestricted criticism in the Legislature. My Government, however, are not unmindful of the importance of industrial and agricultural development and a great deal of progress has been made in this direction. An Industrial Survey Committee is already at work and has produced two interim reports on which suitable action is being taken : the Committee will shortly issue their main report which will be subjected to prompt and careful examination.

The supply of cheap electricity for industrial purposes both in rural and urban areas is a matter that has been engaging the attention of my Government and their expert advisers for a considerable time. Schemes of possible far reaching effect are, I am informed, under examination but it is not possible to forecast how far their execution may be delayed by financial and practical complications which War conditions may enhance.

In the sphere of agriculture two Bills, one for the regulation of jute cultivation and one for the marketing of this and other agricultural commodities, have been prepared and will come up for consideration during the present session of the Assembly. It would not be appropriate for me to make any comment on a matter which will be subject to discussion and criticism in the Legislature but you may rest assured that my Ministers are fully aware of the many interests involved and will give careful consideration to their legitimate claims.

You have referred to the representation of important interests, such as yours, on various local bodies. The Calcutta Port Trust and the local Advisory Committees of State Railway, are matters which primarily concern the Central Government and I would suggest that your Association might appropriately approach that authority with your claim. The constitution of the Calcutta Improvement Trust however is a subject within the purview of my Government which is fully aware of the importance of your community in the city: although I can make no promise I have been assured by the Hon'ble Minister responsible that the fullest

consideration will be given to your views when the Calcutta Improvement Act is next amended.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation of your assurance that your endeavours will always be directed towards attaining communal harmony and goodwill—an object to which I personally attach paramount importance for the future of the Province, and for the attainment of which so far as in me lies I shall spare no effort.

***Address of Weloom presented by the  
Indian Association on 9th December  
1939.***

We the members of the Indian Association extend to you a cordial welcome on your assumption of the important office of the Governor of this Province. Our membership is not confined to any particular classes, creeds or interests. We work for the general welfare of the people, and it may be necessary for us from time to time to address Your Excellency on questions affecting the interests of the entire population of the Province.

We are aware that under the Government of India Act of 1935, the Governor of an Indian Province does not initiate the policy of a Provincial Government or conduct the day to day work of the Government, administrative or legislative. We desire, however, to call Your Excellency's attention to the fact that all the Provincial Governments are new to the exercise of authority, and with the best of intentions they are likely to make occasional mistakes which may press hard on certain classes, interests and communities. It is our expectation that tolerance between opposing points of view will become more firmly established in course of time. In the meantime, apart from the exercise of your special responsibilities in the interests of minorities and in other matters Your Excellency may by your advice give necessary guidance, which will be of considerable value, coming as it will do from one who though head of the Province, does not originate policies or work them out Recent

agrarian and economic legislation in this Province has, according to this Association, been somewhat unbalanced. It has led to the promulgation of some measures, which while injuring certain important classes and interests, are not likely to benefit those classes for whose benefit they were intended.

The declaration of war against Germany has been a matter of deep concern with the Indian Association. The Association whole-heartedly supports Britain and France in the stand they have taken up against unwarranted aggression on the liberty and existence of small States. It may or may not be an arduous fight. But whatever the course of the war may be, we expect that the people of this country will stand solidly for the vindication of the cause which Britain and France have stood for.

In this connection, we desire to call your attention to the problem of our Defence Forces. There are certain matters which affect this Province along with the rest of India, such as the modernisation of Indian units in equipment and mechanisation, both as regards land and air forces, the strengthening of the Indian Navy so as to effectually guard our long sea-board, and above all Indianisation, so that within a definite period of time, the Indian Army may be led by trained Indian Officers.

There is another vital matter in connection with the problem of defence which affects the interests of Bengal. Bengal is one of the Provinces from which for nearly a century there has been no regular recruitment to the Defence Forces of India. The

people of this Province are shut out from being trained for the defence of their hearths and homes. They have to look to others for defending what is nearest and dearest to them. The people of this Province feel deep concern about the growth and continuance of this abnormal system. Taking the present war as an instance, the people earnestly desire a speedy and successful termination of it. But if the war continues for a long time it may be necessary for us to make our contribution in men. To start training at that stage may defeat the object in view, knowing how long it takes to turn out trained and seasoned soldiers. The Association requests that Your Excellency after careful consideration should take steps and should make necessary recommendations to the Central Government so that not only the stigma on Bengal that she cannot defend herself may be removed, but Bengal may be an effective arm in the Defence Forces of the country.

There is another matter to which we desire to call Your Excellency's attention. The boundaries of Bengal were laid down in a hurried manner in 1911. It was then authoritatively stated that if a readjustment of the boundaries of Bengal was called for such readjustment would be made. There are some portions of the present Provinces of Bihar and Assam in which the use of the Bengali language is either universal or predominant. The culture and outlook of the people of those parts are akin to those of the people of Bengal. Representations have repeatedly been made for readjustment of the boundaries of Bengal on a linguistic basis. But no step in that direction has yet been taken. We

request that the claims of Bengal for the incorporation in this Province of tracts of adjoining country inhabited by people who are their kindred, racially and linguistically, will not be ignored, and that early effect will be given to the assurance given in 1911 on the matter of readjustment of Bengal's boundaries.

Your Excellency has come to this Province at a time beset with difficulties. May we offer you our best wishes for a bright and successful term of office for you.



***His Excellency's Reply to the Address  
of Welcome presented by the Indian  
Association on 9th December 1939.***

**MR. CHAUDHURI, GENTLEMEN,**

I am grateful to you for the cordial welcome you have extended on my assumption of office as the Governor of this Province and for the assurance which you have given that your Association wholeheartedly supports the cause for which the Empire is now fighting and for which the people of Bengal have so unmistakably demonstrated their sympathy.

Your expectation that tolerance between opposing points of view will in time become more firmly established is one which the history of the British Empire has fully justified. It is only by goodwill among nations and goodwill among the social, religious and cultural classes within them that the free and peaceful development of political institutions can take place. This is an ideal which, I believe, will be realized more and more in Bengal as constitutional practice is moulded by experience and the potentialities of the Legislature are more and more fully exploited, for the settling of differences in a proper spirit of give and take.

Perhaps the greatest contribution that political parties and groups in the Legislature can make to the attainment of this ideal is, even at the sacrifice of transient political advantage, to represent consistently and outspokenly the interest of those upon whose franchise they have been returned,

while sparing no endeavour to appreciate and understand the point of view of the representatives of interests other than their own.

I venture to think that in methods such as these, will be found the surest means to the attainment of balance in legislation affecting the economic life of the Province.

Two of the problems to which you have referred are, I fear, beyond the authority of the Province. The readjustment of interprovincial boundaries is a matter for which no authority in India can be finally responsible, but a constitutional procedure for dealing with such matters has been laid down in section 290 of the Government of India Act. It is a matter which vitally affects the interests of other Provinces and in which it was anticipated by the Joint Select Committee that the initiative should come from the Legislatures concerned. In the absence of a clearly expressed view of all the Legislatures concerned and of the fullest consideration by all those authorities, upon whom responsibility has been laid by the Government of India Act, the matter is I think not one upon which you would expect me to express an opinion.

The other problem, namely Defence, is a problem which concerns the whole of India and one in which the Province cannot, constitutionally, have the final word. What the Province can do and what, I may say without indiscretion, is being done is to bring to the notice of the Central Government Provincial opinion on this matter. The desire of Bengal to take its full share in the Defence of India is one which I can fully understand and one of

which neither I nor my Ministers are unmindful; you may rest assured that the views which you have put forward will not go unrepresented at the Centre. You will however appreciate the fact that it is for the Government of India to decide this matter and that no authority in the Province is in a position to state and explain the difficulties with which they may be confronted.

In conclusion I again thank you for your good wishes and for your expressions of loyalty to the Empire in her present time of need.

***Address of Welcome presented by the  
Mohamedan Literary Society, on 9th  
December 1939.***

We, the Members of the Mohamedan Literary Society of Calcutta, on behalf of ourselves and the Mohamedan community of this Province whom we have the honour to represent, beg respectfully to offer Your Excellency and The Lady Mary Herbert a sincere and cordial welcome to this city and Province, as also our cordial greetings to Your Excellency on this happy and auspicious occasion of the assumption by Your Excellency of the exalted office of the Governor of Bengal.

Founded in the year 1863 by the late Nawab Bahadur Abdul Latiff, C.I.E., of Calcutta, our Society claims to be the oldest Moslem public organisation in India, and the parent of similar institutions throughout the country. During this long stretch of years, extending over three quarters of a century, our Society has consistently endeavoured to guide the activities of the Moslem Community along well-ordered channels of political and literary advancements and progress. Service to the Community and the country, based on true and genuine loyalty to the Throne, has been our motto and we have always ungrudgingly placed our services at the disposal of the authorities whenever called upon to do so. Your Excellency may confidently rely on this loyalty and co-operation in future, as Your Excellency's predecessors have invariably done in the past.

Your Excellency has been called upon to assume the reins of office under the shadow of a great calamity when the outbreak of the War in Europe has plunged Great Britain into a life and death struggle in defence of those basic principles of democracy, the maintenance of which is vital to the civilisation of the world. The administration of the affairs of the Premier Province in India is in itself a strenuous and arduous task and we can well realise how the difficulties of the situation have been enhanced by reason of the various serious and complicated problems which are bound to arise for consideration owing to the prevalence of the War in Europe. We are glad that in administering the affairs of this Province Your Excellency will be guided by the advice of a council of Ministers whose political principles are based on co-operation, and who can always be relied upon to minimise rather than add to the difficulties of day to day administration.

We take this opportunity of expressing our complete satisfaction at the recent announcement by His Excellency the Viceroy of the aims of His Majesty's Government regarding the political future of India. The Moslem Community have never had any doubts in this respect and we can assure Your Excellency that the statesmanlike pronouncements of His Excellency the Viceroy have deepened the feelings of loyalty of the Moslems of India towards the British Throne. We feel sure that the views we have thus expressed also represent the considered opinion of the overwhelming majority of the peoples of India.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Address of Welcome presented by the Mohamedan Literary Society, on 9th December 1939.***

PRINCE AKRAM HOSSAIN BAHADUR, GENTLEMEN,

It gives me very great pleasure to meet you here to-day and I am grateful indeed for the greetings you have extended to my wife and myself on this occasion. I am not unaware of the important position held by your society in the Moslem community and the manner in which you have to-day voiced your ungrudging loyalty towards the Throne has been a cause of great satisfaction to me.

You have referred to the War in Europe and to the dislocation that this must inevitably cause in the normal life of Bengal. This dislocation is already apparent especially in its economic aspect and may be expected to endure until the war is over and probably even after that. But even though the war has interfered with the normal course of life it is worth remembering that the principles for which the Empire is fighting are as vital to Bengal as they are to Great Britain. Provincial Autonomy has afforded the Bengal Ministry a great opportunity of dealing with the many problems of rural and urban reconstruction in accordance with the charter they have received from the legislature. This work they have already taken up and this work they intend to prosecute with all the means at their disposal. But peaceful and progressive internal development presupposes a world in which relations between different countries are carried on in a

civilized and orderly manner—a world in which a nation that may not have at its disposal sufficient armed forces to protect it fully from aggression, may rely for such protection on the force of world opinion, and upon the strong arms of friends who believe in the same principles. The Empire and its allies are united in the struggle to free the world from the common menace of Nazi aggression. If we were to fail in our task—and I am confident we shall not—the disaster to Bengal, which is striving to rise to the full realization of the potentialities of a Parliamentary system of Government would be as great as to any other part of the democratic world.

In conclusion may I add that I deeply appreciate your assurance that the recent pronouncements which His Excellency the Viceroy has made regarding the political future of India have been welcomed by the Moslem community of Bengal.

I thank you once again, gentlemen, for your welcome and for the opportunity you have given me of meeting you to-day.

***Address of Welcome presented by the  
Indian Chamber of Commerce on 12th  
December 1939.***

On behalf of the members of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, we have great pleasure to-day in welcoming Your Excellency and The Lady Mary Herbert to the Province of Bengal, on the occasion of the assumption by Your Excellency of the high office of Governor. We value greatly this opportunity of meeting Your Excellency.

Your Excellency is assuming the reins of this high office at a time when the British Commonwealth is facing a grave crisis, and difficult as the task of Governorship of this great Province already is, it will certainly be more onerous a responsibility to discharge at this critical juncture. Educated in a great democratic country, the United States of America, and having a firsthand experience of the working of another democratic institution namely the British House of Commons, Your Excellency will, we are confident, discharge the duties of the constitutional Head of this Province on correct democratic principles with sympathy for the minorities and all classes.

We are aware that the policy of the Government of Bengal is, under the present constitution, largely determined by Your Excellency's Ministers but we believe that, holding the high office which Your Excellency does, your advice and guidance can undoubtedly help in furthering the prosperity and happiness of the people of this Province.



We beg to invite Your Excellency's particular attention to the economically backward condition of the great mass of people in this Province. There is a great scope for constructive work in ameliorating the condition of the vast agricultural and rural population. Their education, their health and their economic well-being are all problems which require urgent attention. Although it may sound commonplace, we have no doubt that, so far as their economic condition is concerned, apart from the improvement in the methods of agriculture and the provision of facilities of cheap credit and marketing, the main task before those who have got the destiny of the Province in their hands is to help in the progress and the development of industries both large-scale and small. As Your Excellency is no doubt aware, Bengal is one of the most thickly populated parts of India and it is essential that the dependence of the population on land should be reduced. The task is no doubt formidable and requires courage and vision.

While on the subject of the amelioration of the condition of the agricultural population, we beg to refer to the various legislative measures now being undertaken with a view to solve the problem of rural indebtedness. The Bengal Money Lenders Bill will shortly come up before Your Excellency for assent and another Bill namely the Bengal Agricultural Produce Marketing Bill has been introduced in the legislature. While we are not opposed to the undertaking of legislation for the regulation of money-lending, what we beg to emphasise is the desirability of an adequate appreciation of the fact that a constant supply of cheap

credit is essential for agricultural and industrial development and that if undue restrictions are placed in the way of the business of money-lending and in the way of the normal flow of credit, as some of the provisions of these Bills have the effect of doing, the position of the agriculturist may become worse.

Apart from being a great industrial centre, Calcutta is also an important port and is one of the main channels through which the large import and export trade of India passes. The maintenance of the position of this great city envisages the existence of up-to-date facilities which its port is able to provide to shipping. Calcutta has great potentialities for the development of ship-building industry and as a port for the emigration of pilgrim traffic to Hedjaz.

As we have stated above, the administration of this Province is a difficult and delicate task. We hope, however, that the experience, the ability and the energy which Your Excellency commands would be utilised for guiding the administration of the Province in the right direction and in a manner which will secure the advancement of the interests and the prosperity of all sections and classes of the people inhabiting this Province.

May we again be permitted to offer Your Excellency and The Lady Mary Herbert our heartiest welcome to this Province and express our fervent hope that Your Excellency's regime as Governor of this Province may be marked with an all-round development so that your tenure of office may ever be remembered with gratitude.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Address of Welcome presented by the Indian Chamber of Commerce, on 12th December 1939.***

MR. MEHTA AND GENTLEMEN OF THE INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

In expressing my thanks and also the thanks of my wife for your good wishes on our arrival in Bengal, I should like to add how much I appreciate this opportunity of listening to your views this afternoon and of replying to some of the important and far reaching questions you have raised.

I well appreciate how great a part the traditions of free and democratic countries may play in the building up of autonomous and constitutional Governments in India and I am deeply conscious of the responsibilities laid upon me in that behalf. In the discharge of those responsibilities I am bidden by His Majesty's Instructions to do all that in me lies "to promote all measures making for moral, social and economic welfare and tending to fit all classes of the population to take their due share in the public life and Government of the Province." I can think of no higher aim for our undertaking as I do the responsibilities laid upon me as a Governor in a Province with an autonomous and responsible Government.

I agree with you that in a Province such as Bengal an increase in the prosperity of the people can only be looked for in two main directions: the improvement of the economics of Agriculture and the development of Industries.

As you say the development of Industries is a complex question and my Government decided in 1938 that it should be examined by a Committee comprised of men eminent in commercial and business circles. The labours of that Committee have so far produced interim reports on the marketing of the products of Cottage Industries and on Electrical development in the Province; it is the intention of my Government to give earliest and most careful consideration to the recommendations of that Committee as a whole when they are received. In the meantime the policy of encouraging local industries, especially in rural areas, by demonstration and by providing facilities for training, is being pursued steadily and has already produced most encouraging results.

Closely bound up with the economics of Agriculture are the legislative measures at present under consideration with respect to moneylending and agricultural marketing. The Moneylenders Bill which is still under consideration in the Legislature has quite naturally been the subject of acute controversy. Your suggestion that this measure may interfere with the normal flow of credit is not a new one and I fully appreciate that much criticism is founded on a genuine anxiety as to the ultimate effect of that measure. More than this I cannot appropriately say while this measure is still under debate, but I can assure you that my Ministers are fully alive to the necessity of a well regulated system of rural credit which, while deterring extravagance, will encourage the free production and flow of agricultural commodities. The Agricultural Produce Marketing Bill is similarly committed to

the judgment of the Legislature where, if there is agreement as to the aim in view, there will be the fullest scope for discussion and consideration of the means to be adopted.

You have referred to the position of Calcutta as a great natural port and its potentialities for the development of the ship-building industry and as a centre for the emigration of pilgrim traffic to the Hedjaj. The field of activity of the Provincial Government is considerably limited in this respect by the fact that the port is a subject under the administrative control of the Central Government. When, however, the interests of this Province are affected, my Government has not, in the past, hesitated to take up the matter with the Central Government and will continue so to do in the future. The pilgrim traffic to the Hedjaj has been carried on from Calcutta since 1935, when 527 pilgrims left Calcutta, until 1938-39 when more than 1,700 pilgrims left. During the present year circumstances beyond our control—I refer to the war—have led to the suspension of sailings. This will, I trust, be only a temporary set back—for I, like you, have the welfare and prosperity of this Province deeply at heart.

In conclusion I would like, once again, to express my very great pleasure at this opportunity of meeting you and my gratitude for your expression of good-will.

***Address of Welcome presented by the  
Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European  
Association on 12th December 1939.***

On behalf of the Anglo-Indian community in Bengal, we, the members of the Council of the Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Association, Bengal Provincial Branch, beg to offer Your Excellency and The Lady Mary Herbert a hearty and sincere welcome to Calcutta and Bengal.

We have no doubt that you are acquainted with the origin and growth of this community, descendants in large part of the British and other early European settlers in India and possessed of a proud though chequered history. We have played no small part in the building of India and have formed the greater portion of the personnel of those great and important Services, the Railways, the Posts and Telegraphs and the Customs. Our knowledge of local conditions was a great factor in the advancement of the trade and commerce of Bengal. It fitted us to play the part of middlemen between the British and the peoples of this Province, a position that we long occupied. Again, our contribution to the maintenance of peace and order so essential for the economic prosperity of a country cannot be over-estimated. At one time the Anglo-Indian community formed a large element in Provincial Civil, Judicial and Executive Services and much of the present administration may be said to be built on their pioneer work.

Other times, however, have brought other conditions and we find ourselves to-day pressed out of many services which we, at one time, largely filled.

It is a matter of deep regret that, in this Province, to which we have made no small contribution, few Anglo-Indians find employment in many of its Government services. We are hopeful, however, that our recent representation to the Hon'ble the Chief Minister will bear fruit in a larger representation of this community in the services of the Government of Bengal, where to some extent we feel handicapped by the policy of domicile operating against our employment, in view of the peculiar position of most of our people.

So large a proportion of our people are unemployed that the question of employment is always one of great concern to us. We hope Your Excellency will endeavour to use your influence to the utmost to widen the door of employment for our people and increase their opportunities whether in the field of Government service or private enterprise and this we ask without suggesting injustice to any other community to whom we cannot but allow their claim to a full share in this as in other matters.

One of our chief concerns is to ensure the efficiency of our people in all walks of life. For this reason we are always eager to maintain and improve the facilities and standard of our education. We contend that, within the larger sphere, it is the right of a people to control and mould the policy of the education of their children and especially to have their children taught by teachers of their own kind, whilst the general decrease in the average earning capacity of the Anglo-Indian parent, consequent on the universal reduction in salaries effected in recent years, calls for an early readjustment of

the high maintenance costs of our schools. We are sorry to affirm that this is the only community in India that has not this right of control of its educational policy entirely, for the Provincial Board of Anglo-Indian and European Education is only a partial concession to this principle. These and other features of our education have also been the subject of recent conversation with the Hon'ble the Chief Minister.

In all, we realise and willingly accept that we must, as a people of this country, march in step with others in the development of this land of hoary civilisation and high culture, adapting ourselves to new circumstances and conditions that arise. Our only wish is that we be allowed to play our part freely in co-operation with others and in a spirit of give and take. We have a strict sense of loyalty and discipline. These qualities, together with others, which we have displayed from time to time, are perhaps of special worth at a moment like this of special stress, when every Province in India is agitated by the distressing war to which humanity has once again been subject ; and all we can say, as we have said before, is that our services are unstintedly and unconditionally offered to our King and the Empire battling as they are for order, justice, peace and security.

Undoubtedly, on the one at the helm of affairs of this Province falls a large responsibility which is even greater at a time like this and his influence for the weal or woe of the people is considerable even within the framework of responsible Government. We, as a small community numerically, naturally look to Your Excellency for help, guidance and



**protection in the difficult problems which face us in the future.**

**We live confident in the hope that the term of your office will be successful in every way and will remain in years to come a happy memory to Your Excellency and all concerned of a duty well and truly performed to the increasing benefit and greatness of Bengal and the lustre of your own name.**

***His Excellency's Reply to the Address of Welcome presented by the Anglo-Indian and Demolished European Association, on 12th December 1939.***

SIR HENRY GIDNEY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I should like, in the first place, to express the warm appreciation of my wife and myself for the welcome you have extended to us on our arrival in Bengal and for your assurances of loyalty and support in the great cause of liberty and justice in which the entire Empire is now engaged. I am not unmindful of the importance of your community or the great and historic role it has played in the development of the life of this Province and I have listened with interest and concern to the difficulties to which you have called attention in your address to-day.

I appreciate your anxiety on the subject of employment under Government. I understand that the Central Government have recently reviewed the provisions made to ensure in some of the services to which you refer, that your community shall receive a definite measure of employment and shall also be protected to some extent by minimum of rates of pay. The problem from the point of view of the Provincial Government seems to be on a different footing: I am aware of your anxieties arising from the recent decision of Government in Bengal on the subject of communal representation in the Services. Whereas, I understand, you previously were grouped together with other communities for whom a specific reservation was made in certain services, there is

now no specific reservation for the communities with which you are now grouped by the recent decision. However, it was not and is not intended that your position should be any the worse than it was under the old arrangement and I observe that separate lists of candidates from minority communities have in fact been prepared for consideration at recent public examinations.

Referring to this question two years ago Lord Brabourne stressed the importance of adapting the educational system of your community to the requirements of the competitive examination system. I am pleased to see that in one respect a temporary adaptation has been made in the examination syllabus at the instance of the Provincial Board of Anglo-Indian and European Education and that for two years, and pending the introduction of proper arrangements for vernacular teaching, your candidates will be able to take an European language in place of a vernacular.

I would however reiterate the importance of directing your educational system to meet the requirements of competition for Government services. Only then can you ensure a supply of qualified candidates able to hold their own.

The cognate problem of unemployment is one which affects all communities. My Government is not in a position to undertake responsibility for providing employment for individuals but it has studied the problem with some care and, by appointing an Employment Adviser, has already made available a handbook giving details of opportunities of employment in the various departments of the

**Government of India, the Government of Bengal and in quasi Government institutions such as Railways, Steamship Companies, Port Trusts, District Boards and Municipalities. I commend to you the study of this very illuminating publication. The Adviser is also preparing a similar volume dealing with Industry, Trade and Commerce, which is expected to be available very shortly.**

The further question of Anglo-Indian education is one which is closely bound up with the two problems I have just discussed and I fully appreciate the importance you attach to it. It is a problem which, as you yourselves have stated, has been the subject of recent discussions with the Hon'ble Chief Minister, who has assured me that your representations are receiving and will continue to receive the most careful consideration of my Government.

I could wish that I were in a position, personally speaking, to be more specific in my assurances to you and your community, for I realise the extent of your anxieties and I appreciate the manner in which, while accepting changed conditions, you remain true to old loyalties. I trust and believe, however, that those qualities to which you have referred, together with the spirit of adaptability which you are resolved to show, will win for you a place in the India of the future no less honourable than your history deserves.

I thank you once again for your welcome and for the pleasure you have given me in meeting me this morning.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Inauguration of the proceedings of the Indian Historical Records Commission on 13th December 1939.***

GENTLEMEN,

This is the second occasion on which the Historical Records Commission has met in Calcutta—the last being 16 years ago, and it is my very pleasant duty to welcome you and wish you a pleasant and instructive stay. I might add that having seen the formidable and learned volume of papers to be read and discussed I have no doubt about it being instructive.

Since Lord Lytton addressed you in 1923 Calcutta has lost some of its importance as a centre to which research scholars could come in search of original materials. The Imperial Records have recently been transferred to Delhi and whilst we, in Bengal, naturally regret their loss, we can only hope that the dry climate of Northern India will prove kinder to them than the more humid atmosphere of this Province. But what remains to us is both valuable and interesting. We still hold the Revenue and Judicial records as far as they have survived since the beginning of the British period. These are still a mine of fascinating information and still offer a wide field for original research. Since you last met here we have had visits from many scholars some of whom have published the results of their work. The economic and revenue history of the Province has quite naturally been their chief subject and Mr. Ramsbotham, Professor D. N. Bannerjee and Dr. J. C. Sinha all drew very largely

from our record room for their historical publications. Other historians who made use of the facilities we can still offer are Rai Sahib J. M. Ghose and Professor Zachariah whilst a Dutch historian Mr. J. Van Kan, came from as far afield as Batavia to see what he could find about the Dutch East Indian Empire. We have still another source of historical wealth of which the potentialities are perhaps not fully known. I refer to our mofussil record rooms which contain many old documents and correspondence of great interest, especially of the early British period. They are visited occasionally by historians but I would commend them as worthy of still further attention.

I have no doubt that one of the things you are most anxious to hear is the action which has been taken from time to time on the recommendations made by your Commission. Although the greatest consideration has always been given to your suggestions, financial stringency has prevented the Government from doing in this direction as much as it would have wished. Your suggestion that the mofussil records, to which I have referred above, should be brought to Calcutta, has been approved in principle. But here we are faced with the problem of accommodation. The expansion of Government's normal activities has pressed hardly on the space available. Writers' Buildings is already overcrowded and Government has been compelled to provide alternative accommodation elsewhere for some of the routine offices and staff. As a result we have not, so far, been able to implement this recommendation. You have also referred to the necessity for press-listing, calendaring and reprinting records. I am glad to be able

to say that we have been able to make some progress in this direction. Twelve volumes of the records of the Controlling Council of Murshidabad have been finished and press-listing of the Supreme Revenue Authority Proceedings has been completed up to 1781. That of the Provincial Councils of Revenue is also in progress. I am informed that expense has so far stood in the way of calendaring the records as also of reproduction by the photostat method, but your recommendations have not been overlooked and are still under consideration. The primary duty of those in charge of a record room must however continue to be the preservation of the records in good order and we have not failed to take appropriate action to deal with the ravages of dust to which attention was drawn by the Commission. I think I can safely say that no further anxieties on this score need be entertained.

To return to the purpose of this meeting to-day, I would like to congratulate you on the variety and interest of the papers which are to be discussed. Some, I see, have derived much of their material from our records—I refer particularly to the paper by Mr. S. C. Banarji, our Keeper of Records, on the Naib Nazims of Dacca, to Mr. D. N. Banarji's account of the accession of Nazim-ud-Dowla and to Dr. Das Gupta's paper on the Committee of Circuit at Krishnagar. Others refer to matters of historical interest from all corners of India and amply illustrate the vast wealth of material upon which our scholars can draw.

I will shortly leave you to your deliberations but before I do so, I would like to wish you a successful and profitable meeting.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening  
of the session of All-India History  
Congress on 15th December 1939.***

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is my privilege this morning to inaugurate the 3rd session of the Indian History Congress and in doing so I take this opportunity of reaffirming the welcome that has been so eloquently expressed by the Chairman of the Reception Committee. The Congress is a comparatively recent body but it represents a long and distinguished tradition of historical scholarship—a tradition which derives its greatness from one of the oldest civilizations in the world and it is a happy arrangement that there should be established a congress such as this which enables scholars and savants to meet periodically and discuss important aspects of their work.

The majority of you here to-day are distinguished scholars whilst I am a layman, and cannot claim to have anything more than a superficial knowledge of the branch of learning in which you have specialised. In one respect, however, our paths do cross. Your work is largely bound up with a study of the past—with events that have already taken place, whether ten, a hundred, or a thousand years ago, my work is, and for several years has been, primarily concerned with history in the making; with events as they happen from day to day. Yet the more experience I gain of day-to-day events, the more I realise that they are not, and never can be, dissociated from the past; that in fact there is no such thing as a past which can be neatly and conveniently divorced from the present. History is a continuous growth and for an explanation of our problems to-day we may



have to go back many hundreds or even thousands of years. It is at this point that the layman—such as I am—has to rely on experts such as you are. For before we can understand and assess the value of beliefs, or political ideas, we must know just when and how they arose. It is in this way that the historian can be of inestimable help to people, such as myself, who are concerned primarily with day to day events.

A distinguished Professor of History once wrote : “The Historian is not only a story teller but a witness, bound, according to the prescribed formula, to tell the whole truth,—within the limits of his space,—and nothing but the truth”. This is perhaps a limitation on the functions of a historian which would not be acceptable to all, but it is a most important aspect and one which must, at any rate, be the foundation on which the historian, whose primary interest lies in interpretation or philosophy, bases his researches. It is not my place to enlarge on the functions of a historian—I leave that to more learned heads than mine, but what I have said, I can at least claim to have been based on personal experience and personal appreciation of the historian’s work.

There will, I realise, be much for you to discuss on this occasion and I do not intend to keep you longer from your deliberations except to say how very glad I am to see that your meeting includes projected trips to famous historical places such as Gour and Pandua and Paharpur and Mahasthan—places which we in Bengal are proud to be able to show to visitors from other parts of India.

I will now close after thanking you for your kind welcome and wishing you a successful meeting.

***Address of Welcome presented by the  
European Association (Bengal Branches)  
on 15th December 1939.***

It is a sadly brief period since we had the honour to offer our words of welcome to Lord Brabourne, whose tragic death robbed this Province of a Governor who had won the affection and admiration of every community and every class. To you, Sir, we desire on behalf of the British community in this Province to offer our warm welcome on the assumption of the high office of Governor of Bengal, and our assurance that the same loyalty which we have borne to your predecessors will be readily and wholeheartedly offered to yourself in these grave times.

The European Association was formed in Calcutta in the year 1883 with the object of protecting the legitimate interests of the British community in India, an object which remains its primary aim.

Since its formation the organisation of the Association has spread throughout all the Provinces of British India, though the original branch in Calcutta and its sister branches in the Province of Bengal continue to furnish the majority of its total membership.

Your Excellency comes to a Province, which while it cannot claim to have been the earliest centre in which British commerce with India was established, can claim to be that in which that commerce has been more widely developed and has achieved more for the prosperity of the people than in any other Province. The establishment and

development of the great industries for which Bengal is famous—of jute, tea and coal—are, with many others, the outcome of the genius and energy of Britons who have lived and worked in this Province.

Equally to British enterprise is due the development of communications in Bengal, both by rail and inland waterways, as also the pre-eminence of Calcutta as the first seaport of India and the second city of the British Empire.

It is inevitable, therefore, that in this Province should be found the strongest organisation of British political opinion, an organisation represented by the Branches of the European Association on whose behalf we now have the honour of addressing you.

We therefore reiterate our pledge to do all that lies within our power to assist Ministers to discharge the responsibility of their offices under the Government of India Act for the advancement of the Province, so long as they give their best endeavours to the benefit of the Province and eschew discrimination and oppression whether racial or communal. We welcome the growing sense of responsibility and the growth of democratic organisations which Ministers have achieved, but we believe that there have been occasions when the friendship and good feeling between communities, on which alone the advancement of this Province can proceed, have been impaired, and it is our hope that a spirit of compromise, without which democratic institutions must be doomed to failure, will not be found lacking.

Your Excellency is aware that this Province has in the past suffered much from the lawless activities of men, whose avowed aim has been to bring about

**Revolution.** In view of world events such activities may not subside, and Your Excellency may rest assured that any steps which may be deemed expedient to check them will receive the vigorous support not only of the community which we represent, but of all responsible citizens in this Province.

Your Excellency has assumed your High Office at a time of the gravest import to the history of the civilisation of the world.

Our Empire has drawn the sword in the defence of principles which are the birthright and the heritage of every Briton. Great Britain and her Allies are fighting for the cause of liberty, national and personal, of justice, and finally of lasting peace.

To us, and to all our countrymen and kinsmen overseas, has come the call to vindicate these ideals and to ensure that they shall not perish before a regime of brutality, oppression and faithlessness. Let it suffice to say that we shall not be found wanting.

Your Excellency may be assured of our most enthusiastic and wholehearted co-operation in all measures military and civil undertaken to further the successful prosecution of this just war.

We are fully aware that the bearing of sacrifice and strain will be demanded from our community, which though relatively small in numbers in this great Province, is yet proud and content to bear these burdens.

We believe that we speak for the majority of the population of this great country when we say that we stand with Britain and with the rest of the

Empire in the present struggle. There is confusion of thought in certain quarters and there are still in existence misguided elements which have sought for separation from the Empire in spite of the lessons which world affairs offer, but we feel certain that in responsible quarters India subscribes to our simple creed. We know that our Empire is a power for good in this gravely troubled world and we cannot but combine to put an end to those forces which threaten its ideals. There is at present no cause of prior importance.

We further desire respectfully to draw Your Excellency's attention to the activities of those who desire revolution after the pattern of Russian ideologies and whose activities are directed towards the disturbance of relations between employers and labour. In times of peace the attempt was made to indentify these aspirations with the more sincerely national aspirations of India with which we have every sympathy within the Empire. There are however ample grounds for our apprehension that political ends rather than the improvement of the conditions of labour are the prime reason for the fomenting of disturbances, and at this time such activities should not be permitted. The freedom which democracy offers must not be abused while we are fighting to defend democracy.

In past years, the Government of Bengal has recognised the European Association as a body which should be consulted on proposals under consideration and circulated for opinions pending the enactment of legislation..

We trust that this practice will be continued by Your Excellency's Government, and beg to assure Your Excellency that, while we shall not hesitate frankly to criticise any proposal which threatens those rights which we are pledged to protect, we will to the utmost of our ability assist in the furtherance of all proposals directed to the advancement of the interests of the people of this Province.

It is in the heartfelt hope that Your Excellency may spend the term of your Office in Bengal in health and happiness, and in the sincere conviction that the advancement and prosperity of the Province will be promoted by reason of your tenure of Office as its Governor that we beg to subscribe ourselves.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Address of Welcome presented by the European Association (Bengal Branches) on 15th December 1939.***

MR. LOCKHART, GENTLEMEN OF THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION,

I am grateful to you for your welcome to Bengal and for your assurance of loyalty and co-operation in the task which lies ahead of me. I also deeply appreciate your reference to the late Lord Brabourne: I know in what high esteem he was held in this Province and how justly he had earned the trust and affection which you and all communities in the Province bestowed on him.

Your conviction that the Empire is fighting in a just and righteous cause is a conviction which I believe with you, is shared by the vast majority of the people in India. In Bengal we are particularly fortunate that my Government has seen fit to translate this belief into generous and wholehearted co-operation in the measures which have been found necessary for the proper prosecution of the war and I gladly take this opportunity of acknowledging the help that both I and my predecessor have consistently received.

You have drawn my attention also to the subversive forces which are directed towards the destruction of good relations between employers and labour and to your apprehension that political considerations rather than the improvement of labour conditions are behind these movements.

I realise that your Association takes a grave view of this situation and I realise—as does the responsible Minister—that your apprehensions on this score are not unfounded. It is the policy of my Government to ensure that labour is not denied the expression of its legitimate grievances : at the same time it is their intention to prevent subversive agitation of which the primary purpose is neither the improvement of conditions of labour nor the furtherance of a genuine trade dispute. My Government recognise also that in time of war it is particularly necessary to prevent that type of interference with industry which is primarily designed to disorganise production.

There is however another and extremely important aspect of this question, to which I am confident that your Association, which is largely representative of employers interests, is fully alive. I refer to the fact that a contented labour force is far less prone to be influenced by irresponsible agitation than one in which discontent is found. A constitutionally organised labour force moreover is less liable to be misled by extravagant promises and subversive slogans than one which is disorganised or organised without a sense of responsibility. This is the view taken by my Government and this is the view which has chiefly prompted them in encouraging the organisation of constitutional trade unions and in setting up the new Department of Labour, the duties of which are very largely concerned with mediation in and conciliation of labour disputes. I venture to suggest that the best weapon with which to counter the subversive forces you have mentioned, is a well ordered and mutually satisfactory system of settling trade disputes. I say



this not in any spirit of criticism of the machinery which now exists or of the policy which is being followed by European firms—I have in fact every reason to believe that this policy has been and still is, an enlightened one. I say it, only to indicate what I consider to be the right method—on the constructive side—of facing a potentially dangerous movement.

I would like to thank you for your assurance of support should revolutionary activity once more become a menace to the peace of the Province. Your assistance in the past has been of the greatest help to the authorities and even without the renewed assurance you have given, my Government and I would have felt confident of your co-operation in any future emergency.

It is no use being blind to the fact that there are still in India those who have not abandoned the prospect of attaining their political objectives by ultimate, if not by immediate, violence ; there are also those who, if internal disturbances were to accompany a period of war time stress, would be sorely tempted to adopt at an earlier stage those methods of violence which in more normal times their own prudence would counsel them to postpone.

I believe that those who harbour these plans are but an infinitesimal fraction of the population and command no sympathy from responsible leaders of political thought, who are profoundly conscious of the futility of such methods and of the incalculable damage that such methods have inflicted on the welfare of this Province in particular.

Against these dangers there are two remedies to which my Government pin their faith. One is their own unremitting vigilance : the other, no less important, is the realisation by all responsible sections of the community of the existence of these dangers and a general resolve to avoid courses which would further directly or indirectly the development of plans for revolutionary activities.

You have said that in the past the Government of Bengal has recognised the European Association as a body which should be consulted on proposals under consideration and upon pending legislation ; you have expressed the hope that this position will continue. I may assure you that my Government has no intention of discontinuing this practice.

In conclusion may I say again, how much I have welcomed this opportunity of meeting you to-day and of thus being brought, at this early stage, into direct touch with your outlook on affairs.

***Address of Welcome presented by the  
British Indian Association on 15th  
December 1939.***

We, the Members of the British Indian Association representing landed and other vested interests in Bengal, beg to offer our most hearty and cordial welcome to the Lady Mary Herbert and yourself on the assumption of your high office as Governor of this Presidency.

The Association finds that the times are rough and changing quickly. The "status quo" is being rudely shaken and the alignment of political and economic forces is making for a new order of things which is hostile to the given basis of class relations. The world is aflame; there is smouldering discontent in our country. The clash of competing and conflicting ideals is spreading uncertainty and consternation amongst the people. In this hour of travail and crisis, Your Excellency has undertaken the new trust and responsibility which, we are confident, you will discharge to the maximum satisfaction of all the citizens.

The Association considers it a bounden duty to draw Your Excellency's kind attention to the agglomeration of forces which are working for the break up of the existing order of society. The movement against all forms of vested interest has been gathering strength, although the landowning interest is chosen for the first attack in the reformed legislature. The radical and disturbing changes brought about by the new tenancy legislation sought to extirpate the landlord's rights in

land and considerably accelerated the pace of communistic ideology in the country leading to the extinction of the acquisitive order of society. This frank and frontal attack on the right of private property in agricultural land, coupled with unchecked agitation in the countryside against landlords as a class, is slowly but surely bringing about social disintegration and economic collapse. The Association submitted a Memorial to your predecessor the Right Hon'ble Lord Brabourne, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., M.C., over the signatures of ten thousand representative landlords praying for the withholding of his assent to the Bengal Tenancy Amendment Bill, 1938. The Government of India Act, 1935, and the Instrument of Instructions issued thereunder provide for certain safeguards to protect the interests of minority communities and save the propertied class from the inroads of aggressive and expropriatory legislations. Those safeguards, however, proved illusory; the prayer of the landlords of Bengal was not granted. The belief has come to stay that the special responsibilities of Governor will not be effective in future in favour of the legitimate rights of the landowning community.

The Association submits that the institution of private landlordism in Bengal has grown in response to historical and social necessities. It is well-known that the Hon'ble Court of Directors in England acting as a delegate of British Parliament confirmed the landlords in their powers and privileges with a view to strengthen and consolidate British rule in India and accordingly the Regulations of 1793 were passed. The Association further

submits that the landlords of Bengal have played their part nobly and truly; they rendered every form of assistance in building up the British Empire in India. Landlords have, as far as practicable, pooled their energies and resources for social and economic development of the country; they have in their humble way tried to function as vehicles of culture and liberal ideas; they have stood for measures seeking to achieve the welfare of the people and have shown readiness to fall in line with progressive legislation. The loyalty and services of the landowning community prized in years of trouble and anxiety are not given a recognition to-day by the distribution of evenhanded justice. The Association begs to aver that landlords do not ask for special favours; they claim legitimate protection to which all the vested interests are entitled for the enjoyment of their lawful rights and privileges. Landlords undoubtedly believe in the principle of self-determination in the form of Government; they do not favour an encroachment on the rights of the legislature, nor do they endorse Governor's interference in the task of administration. But there are certain basic principles and fundamental postulates recognised by the Government of India Act in the interest of stability of social order, and any deviation therefrom should not only be discouraged but sternly opposed. The trends in the new legislations and the subversive ideology which is growing and spreading unhampered in the country and threatening the basis of property-rights distinctly show that property-owners are left in the lurch to be put out of existence by legislative attack and destructive

propaganda. The signs are ominous; the safeguards provided for in the Government of India Act and in the Instrument of Instructions manifestly for the purpose of stemming the growing tide against vested interests are not, so far as our experience goes, of material help to the landowning community. In the circumstances, we forbear burdening this Address with an enumeration of their grievances.

Agriculture forms the mainstay of the Province of Bengal. It is encouraging to learn that Your Excellency has great interest in agriculture and other allied problems. Landlords and ryots who are partners in the same business are all interested in agricultural prosperity, but the decline in agriculture which has set in is involving a great strain on the rural economy of the Province. Your Excellency's useful experience of the handling of the agricultural and other rural problems will be a helpful guide to the initiation of a comprehensive programme of reconstruction which is essential for lifting the Province from its depth of insolvency and depression. Landlords are not, and do not propose to remain, indifferent to the pressing problem of rural reconstruction, and they gladly express their readiness to co-operate with Government in matters tending to promote the happiness and prosperity of the people and peace of the country.

The Association watched with concern the thickening of war clouds in Europe. The policy of aggression by Germany has ultimately led to the present conflict. The declaration of war against Germany by Great Britain primarily in the interest of Democracy has evoked wide-spread sympathy and

the landlords of Bengal take this opportunity of reiterating and conveying through Your Excellency their assurance of unswerving loyalty and deep attachment to the Person and Throne of His Majesty the King-Emperor of India and of offering their help and services in the present war to His Majesty's Government.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Address of  
Welcome presented by the British  
Indian Association, on 15th December  
1939.***

MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR, GENTLEMEN OF THE  
BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION,

I welcome this opportunity of meeting an Association such as yours which is representative of the important landowning community of Bengal and I thank you, not only for the kind welcome you have extended to my wife and myself, but also for your assurance of unswerving fidelity to the Throne in these momentous and critical times.

I recognise that your claim to have contributed largely to the social and economic development of the Province is no idle one. The landlords of Bengal have played in the past and still play, an important role in a community which depends and must, for many years yet to come, depend largely on the produce of the soil for its prosperity. I am glad to see from your determination to co-operate with Government in matters relating to rural uplift that you are not unmindful of the role you have still to play.

The recent Tenancy legislation to which you have referred with concern is a manifestation of a changing outlook and altered circumstances to which society is slowly adjusting itself. What may quite possibly appear expropriatory to one section of the community may be considered, with equal honesty, by another section to be no more than a necessary and not unjustifiable adjustment of social and economic conditions.



I would deprecate the view that the safeguards against expropriation contained in the Government of India Act are illusory. It is however important to remember that these safeguards were never intended to prevent modification of rights in land: their efficacy is to be judged in relation to their purpose, and that purpose—if I may hazard a definition—was to ensure that legislation that appears to be of an expropriatory character should be examined dispassionately and weighed with the utmost care before a decision as to assent is taken. I have no hesitation in assuring you that such an examination of the recent tenancy legislation was in fact made, and it was not until the Governor was satisfied that the legislation did not, in fact, fall into the category of unjust and indefensible cancellation of rights in land that his assent was given. I would remind you that one provision of the Bill which was particularly open to criticism on this score was modified with the full consent of the Legislature before the stage of final assent was reached. I can further assure you that in accordance with my Instrument of Instructions, the same careful consideration will continue to be given to legislation in the future, as has been given in the past, and that that consideration will not be perfunctory.

But conditions, as I have said before, are rapidly changing and if I might offer counsel I would say that the real problem which faces the landowning community to-day is not so much to consider how far their ancient privileges can be safeguarded by extra-Parliamentary procedure as to strengthen the efficiency of the representation of the propertied classes on the Legislature itself and to see how best

to adapt a form of social economy, which has proved its worth over many decades, to the changing circumstances of the modern world.

In common with my Government I attach great importance to the comprehensive study of agrarian and revenue problems that is still proceeding under the distinguished Chairmanship of Sir Francis Floud. Nor is Bengal alone in attaching this importance to the Land Revenue Commission—I may now say without indiscretion that some time ago an enquiry was made from another Province asking whether the services of this body could be made available to assist in a study of their own problems.

Apart from legislative measures, you have referred to apprehensions arising from new problems in the management of your estates. I understand that in fact a reluctance to pay rent and other legal demands did manifest itself shortly after the introduction of the new Constitution. It is, I can well believe, difficult to assess with accuracy how far this reluctance was due to economic as distinct from political causes.

My Government have all along set their face against remissness in payment of lawful dues, except when the economic condition of those from whom they were due was such that it was impossible to pay them; they have issued the clearest instructions to Executive officers that wilful non-payment is not to be tolerated.

The prices of agricultural produce have now risen and I trust that there will be no further grounds for apprehension on this score. For your part gentlemen, I would ask you to do all that lies

in your power to establish cordial relations with your tenants and by constant supervision to minimise these causes of misunderstanding that must inevitably arise from time to time in an organisation as large as the Zamindaries of Bengal.

I have spoken frankly, as you have spoken frankly—I have done so because I believe that when difficulties exist nothing is to be gained by shutting our eyes to them. I would like to say, in conclusion, how much I have appreciated this opportunity for a free exchange of views on matters that for the next few years are likely to be of lively interest to us both.

***Address of Welcome presented by the  
Central National Muhammadan Association  
on 15th December 1939.***

On behalf of the Central National Muhammadan Association, the oldest Moslem political organisation in India, we extend to Your Excellency and The Lady Mary Herbert a most cordial and respectful welcome on your arrival in this the second city of the British Empire of which we are so justly proud and on the assumption by Your Excellency of the exalted office of the Governor of this Presidency.

This Association was started in the year 1877 by the late Right Hon'ble Syed Amir Ali, P.C. It has ever since and for the last 63 years served, by all constitutional and legitimate means, the cause of the country in general and the uplift and welfare of the Moslem Community in particular and consistently and often successfully attempted for a removal of those obstacles and grievances which blocked the way.

We deeply mourn the premature passing away of your predecessor in office, Lord Brabourne, while still in harness and in the prime of his life. In welcoming him, we pointed out that Bengal has always been a difficult Province to administer, notwithstanding the fact that the initiation of policies had passed out of the hands of Governors on to the Provincial Ministers, and the responsibility of Governors has therefore been circumscribed. This difficulty of administration to which we had referred still continues and has been

considerably enhanced by the unfortunate outbreak of War in Europe in which the Democratic Powers there have been compelled to engage with a view to meet and put an end to German aggression and to which India is necessarily a party. Luckily for Bengal we have a Government which has from the outset declared and proved its determination to co-operate fully in the effective prosecution of the war, thus reflecting the opinion of the Muslims and all those sections of the population which desire to see this business through.

So far as this Association is concerned it was first in the field to pass unanimously on the 25th August 1939 the following Resolutions under the Chairmanship of Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi :—

“That in view of the threatening international complications in Europe this Association feels called upon on behalf of its members and the large body of Moslems represented by them to reiterate and declare its loyal devotion to the Throne of His Gracious Majesty King George VI.

“That notwithstanding the fact that His Majesty’s Government as well as the Government of India have done very little for Moslems outside and inside India and that Moslems therefore have just reasons for dissatisfaction and disappointment particularly in connection with the troubles in Palestine, this Association has no hesitation in appealing to and calling upon the Moslems of Bengal and India to rally round the British flag in the present hour of crisis and respond wholeheartedly to any call for sacrifice and service that may be made of them.

"That this Association calls upon all communities and particularly Moslems to so organise as to counteract the evil and baneful effects of the propaganda carried on by Nazi and Bolshevich agencies in India, invites the Government to declare the most useful forms of service which may be required of the various sections of the people in this emergency and calls upon the Moslems to co-operate with all other communities in India and the Government in this behalf."

To the policy of unconditional co-operation and wholehearted support embodied in the Resolutions, this Association still adheres and we assure Your Excellency that we shall continue to implement those Resolutions to the best of our ability holding firmly to the abiding faith that India's cheerful sacrifice and service at this hour of peril facing Great Britain will win for India at the termination of the War even from hands that may falter and hearts that may hesitate that freedom and equality within the British Commonwealth of Nations which has been overdue.

In connection with the War activities of the Government and the effective protection of the Eastern Frontiers of India, it will not be out of place to mention that our people are anxious to play an effective part in the defence of India and they are anxious that permanent battalions of Bengalis may be allowed to be raised and given effective training. In this connection we also feel constrained to draw Your Excellency's attention to the fact that unfortunately for us our people are classified as non-martial and are not therefore recruited to the Indian Army. This unfortunate and unjust

classification is very much resented and our youths are anxious for the removal of this stigma by being allowed to join the combatant ranks and thereby rendering efficient service to their King and Country. Though strictly speaking the removal of the grievance lies with the Army Authorities in India, the Governor of Bengal can certainly do a great deal to further the cause which Bengal has so much at heart.

Having said this much, we feel that we must not tire Your Excellency for the moment with a catalogue of our Provincial and Domestic politics—suffice it to say that the population is mainly divided into two elements—Moslem and Hindu—with well-marked cleavages in religious systems, social usages, historic traditions and cultural heritages which have engendered communal distrust and mutual want of confidence, thereby creating an absence of national unity and harmony without which a responsible and democratic constitution cannot flourish. A literary education leading to middle class unemployment, dire poverty and indebtedness of the population which is practically agricultural, Bengal's decadent river systems, the ravages of preventible diseases, and the system of land tenure embodied in the Permanent Settlement are some of the conditions of the problem of Government in Bengal which may so impinge on matters within Your Excellency's province that in guiding the destinies of autonomous Bengal during the next five years there will be ample scope for the exercise by Your Excellency of that wise sagacity and practical wisdom which characterised your Parliamentary career and made it so conspicuous a success.

At this critical hour when Britain is engaged in a life and death struggle to introduce a new order of things and make this world of ours worth our while to live in, we welcome the words of wisdom, prudence and foresight uttered by His Excellency the Viceroy in his recent Announcement and we assure Your Excellency on behalf of our Association that it will do all in its power to implement the appeal which has been so eloquently made by His Excellency.

In conclusion we pray that Your Excellency and The Lady Mary Herbert may enjoy health and strength, that your stay in our midst may be happy and pleasant and your administration of Bengal may succeed to the benefit of Bengal and Britain alike.



***His Excellency's Reply to the Address of  
Welcome presented by the Central  
National Muhammadan Association, on  
15th December 1939.***

SIR ABDUL HALIM GHUZNAVI AND GENTLEMEN  
OF THE CENTRAL NATIONAL MUHAMMADAN  
ASSOCIATION,

First of all allow me to express my gratitude for the cordial welcome you have extended to my wife and myself on our arrival in Bengal. You mourn the loss of the late Lord Brabourne as a much loved Governor of this Province. I also mourn his loss as a friend ; it will be my endeavour to be worthy of succeeding him. I deeply appreciate the expression of loyalty and devotion to the Throne which you have voiced. These are troubled times and the British Empire has been compelled to join issue with forces of ruthless aggression. On the result of this struggle will largely depend whether the world is to revert to the law of the jungle or whether it will work out its destiny in an atmosphere of ordered Constitutional progress. Your own assurance of loyalty and your reference to the splendid manner in which the Government of this Province has co-operated in a common cause is proof that the people of Bengal have viewed the problem clearly and wisely and is a matter which I regard with the deepest satisfaction.

In the resolution which you have quoted, you have invited a declaration from Government of the most useful forms of service which may be required

from various sections of the people. This is a pertinent question and one which has exercised the minds of all those who have felt that they would like to make some personal effort in the common cause. As this war has so far developed the call for personal service with the colours has not, in India, been as widespread as might in other circumstances have been the case; but I cannot let this occasion pass without referring to one class of service that is being magnificently rendered in face of hardship and danger by men of your community from Bengal: I refer to the Bengal Lascars who in every quarter of the world are carrying on their fine tradition of the sea. Though on land large parts of Europe are in the grip of tyranny, the seas of the world are open—despite danger and loss—to the commerce of free men. It is a source of pride and gratification to me, as it is to you, that the Lascars of Bengal, now as ever, are holding a worthy share in the great fellowship of the sea.

But the possibilities of service are not confined to those who are called to active work in the battle area. In this war the economic effort of the Empire is a factor of paramount importance. Yours, I know, is not a wealthy community in this Province; but the loyal co-operation of the cultivators and workers of Bengal is a contribution of high value to the common effort.

On the question of actual service in the Army I recognise that not only the interests represented by your Association, but also the people of this Province as a whole, feel very deeply. The desire to play an effective part in the defence of India is, I know, unanimous in Bengal. As you have said,

the Army is a subject for which the Central Government is responsible and the final decision must rest with them. As I observed in reply to another address a few days ago, there may well be, from the point of view of the Government of India, financial and practical difficulties which no one in the Province is in a position to explain with authority: but I can assure you that the Provincial point of view has not and will not go unrepresented in the appropriate quarters.

You have referred to the many problems which face the Government of this Province—to the problem of economic reconstruction, to the problems inherent in the prevailing land system and to the great need of securing communal harmony. All these are subjects to which I can assure you my Government has given in the past, and will continue to give in the future, its most earnest and serious consideration, and they are subjects the importance of which I very fully appreciate.

In the short time that I have been in this Province I have already had evidence of what can be accomplished by perseverance and by a spirit of good-will and accommodation; I shall spare no effort in the promotion of that method of approach to our difficulties.

I deeply appreciate your attitude to the announcement of His Excellency the Viceroy indicating as it does a determination to work for the progress of India, in a spirit of realism and co-operation. It is on that note, gentlemen, that I may fitly conclude my reply to you to-day.

***His Excellency's Inaugural talk on the opening of the Medium Wave Radio Station at Dacca on 16th December 1939.***

Thanks to the enterprize of the All-India Radio I am speaking to you through the new transmitter at Dacca. It is a station designed to serve the needs of the Dacca area—one of the most thickly populated areas in the world—without interfering with the reception of broadcasts from Calcutta.

I would like to express my appreciation of the enterprize that has put Dacca in the Radio map of India.

More particularly however I want to take this opportunity to say a few personal words.

I have, as you know, only recently arrived in Calcutta—coming from England—a country where the autumn is often wet and the winter always cold and chilly. Coming from that country I arrived here in Calcutta to be welcomed by the climate for which the Bengal cold weather is so famous. I also find around me signs of welcome which I appreciate even more—I refer to the kind reception given me on arrival by so many people of different classes and interests.

I am now sitting at my desk in a room rich in historic associations, at Government House, Calcutta. In front of me is the microphone and slightly to my right hangs a map of Bengal.

Dacca is to me at present only a name on that map but from what I have heard and read of it I try to visualize it as you may perhaps try to visualize

me talking to you from the heart of Calcutta. I picture to myself an ancient capital set in a land of great rivers—an age old centre of learning and culture that still lives close to the rural life of Eastern Bengal.

I visualize the long sweep of the river along its water front, the crowded bazaars and historic buildings of the old city—and beyond them the garden residences of the new city of Ramna and the spacious precincts of a new and virile University.

I am trying to imagine my listeners. Are you only those who live in big houses, or in the city itself, or are my words reaching others who live further afield or in humbler abodes? Whichever you be you have one interest in common : for whatever your calling may be in Dacca it seems to me that your welfare must be bound up with the prosperity of agriculture in Eastern Bengal. I hope with you that the coming year will be one of abundant harvest and good prices. I hope soon to have the opportunity to meet you at closer quarters, and to learn more at first hand of your joys and sorrows. To-night I cannot do more than send you this message of good-will.

The fact that I am enabled to speak to you many months before we shall meet is a tribute to modern science which is bringing to the countryside those amenities which, arriving first as luxuries, are soon accepted as necessities of life.

You in the city of Dacca are fortunate in having a main supply of electricity provided you have a receiving set to plug into it. But others in the villages will still have to use the older battery sets,

which save the trouble of plugging in so long as the battery works! You will hear prompt news of what is happening elsewhere, of prices for agricultural products and of the state of the markets. You will hear talks of interest to town and country dwellers and last but not least, you will hear in your houses and your villages the best entertainment that Eastern Bengal can offer.

Bengal has a long and distinguished tradition of literary, dramatic and musical art. Broadcasting, relying largely as it must on local talent, will do much to keep this tradition alive.

Later on when the Dacca station is able to receive as well as to transmit, you will be put in direct touch with the larger stations of India and through them with the world.

One last word to those who are charitably disposed. There is great deal that they can do to enable others in less fortunate circumstances to share in the benefits that wireless has brought within their reach. Institutions such as schools, clubs or Village Reconstruction Units will find a receiving set a boon without price and I commend as a good cause to those who have the means the possibility of helping such institutions to acquire a set of their own.

I will close by wishing success and popularity to the new Dacca station, which has enabled me to-night to address so many listeners whom I hope later to see.

***Address of Welcome presented by the  
Bengal Landholders Association on  
18th December 1939.***

In pursuance of the long-standing tradition of this Association of extending a welcome to the Administrative Head of our Presidency on the assumption of reins of Government, we have the honour and pleasure of presenting this address to you as a token of our joy on the occasion of Your Excellency's ascension of the gaddi of Bengal.

We, the landholders of Bengal, take this opportunity of assuring Your Excellency of our sincere feelings of loyalty and co-operation in Your Excellency's task of administration of Bengal. Our Association begs to lay its resources at Your Excellency's disposal for the maintenance of the principles of democracy.

We belong to a community which has great stakes in the country and which stands as a bulwark of order and peace. Our influence and prestige were secured by the Permanent Settlement and frequent inroads into that system are threatening to undermine our rights which may result in social and economic disruption. Though we appreciate that the limitations under which Your Excellency will have to carry on the work of administration as a constitutional Governor, make it difficult for you to make a public declaration of any policy, yet we hope and trust that Your Excellency will see that the solemn pledges of the maintenance of the Permanent Settlement are not broken, and that the services

rendered by the landholders, extending over a century, all over the country, to the Government and the people, are not forgotten. We feel sure that Your Excellency will try to safeguard the interests of the landholding community—a task which rests on Your Excellency alone as enjoined by the British Parliament and provided by the Instrument of Instructions, and take effective steps to prevent inroads on the Permanent Settlement.

In conclusion, we pray to God that He may be pleased to bestow His choicest blessings on Your Excellency and The Lady Mary Herbert and that Your Excellency's stay in Bengal may be marked by progress and peace in all directions.



***His Excellency's Reply to the Address  
of Welcome presented by the Bengal  
Landholders Association on 18th  
December 1939.***

MAHARAJADHIRAJA, GENTLEMEN OF THE BENGAL  
LANDHOLDERS ASSOCIATION,

I am grateful to you for your welcome to me on my assumption of the office of Governor of this Province and for your assurances of loyalty and co-operation in the task that lies ahead of me.

Your Association represents an influential section of the community which has played an important and historic role in the development of the economic and social structure of Bengal; to-day you still occupy a position of great responsibility in a society which still depends primarily on the products of the soil for its prosperity. As you have observed, you have a large stake in the land and I can appreciate your anxiety regarding legislation which in any way modifies the land system under which you are accustomed to administer your estates.

You have asked me to ensure that the services of the landlords to Government and the people are not forgotten and that the solemn pledges for the maintenance of the Permanent Settlement are not broken. The pledges to which I think you refer are those contained in the Regulations embodying that Settlement and you would not expect me on this occasion to discuss in detail their legal significance under the present constitution. This is a question on which I cannot do better than refer to

the Instrument of Instructions issued to me by His Majesty and by which I am bound. The Instrument of Instructions lays down that if legislation which alters the character of the Permanent Settlement is passed, I must reserve it for the consideration of the Governor-General: the Instrument of Instructions to the Governor-General lays down that he, in his turn must reserve it for the consideration of His Majesty. If, therefore, such legislation is passed, the power of arriving at a final decision upon the matter passes to a higher authority than any in India. His Excellency the Viceroy on a previous occasion has assured you that there need be no fear of any Governor-General dealing perfunctorily with any question that might come before him in that connection. For my own part I can only repeat a similar assurance to that given to you by the late Lord Brabourne that such a question would not be perfunctorily dealt with by myself.

I recognise however that there may be legislation which, though not attacking the very citadel of the Permanent Settlement itself, does threaten serious inroads on what I may call the outer defence of that institution. Of such legislation I can only say, as I said to the British Indian Association a few days ago, that the relevant provisions of the Government of India Act and my Instrument of Instructions are designed not to perpetuate a static condition of society but to operate as a safeguard against unfair and indefensible cancellation of rights in land.

Whether a particular measure falls within that category, or whether it is defensible as a step in the

progressive and ordered adjustment of social and economic relationships, is a question that must, whenever it arises, call for the most earnest and dispassionate consideration. Such consideration, I can assure you, will be forthcoming.

I do venture to express the hope that in a Province whose welfare and progress we all have at heart, these problems will be approached by all responsible sections of public opinion with that earnestness and in that spirit of accommodation that befits the gravity of the issues involved.

***Address of Welocome presented by the  
Bengal National Chamber of Commerce  
on 19th December 1939.***

We, the members of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, the oldest organisation among the Indian mercantile community in India, and representing the varied commercial and industrial interests of this Province, deem it a great privilege to be given this opportunity of according to Your Excellency and The Lady Mary Herbert a warm welcome on your arrival in the Province and on your assumption of the high office of Governor.

Your Excellency assumes office at a critical stage in the history of the World. The ideals of freedom and democracy are involved in a life and death struggle against the greed and rapacity of a totalitarian state. The issue is fraught with serious consequences for all peoples. On the ultimate victory of the forces of democracy, of which however there can be no doubt, rests not only the continued and peaceful existence of the small defenceless states but also the hope of civilisation itself. The sympathies of all shades of opinion of India, as of democratically-minded people everywhere else, are naturally with Britain and her allies. India has, in no uncertain terms, declared herself against Hitlerism and the menace it means to the world. Unfortunately, however, owing to misunderstanding in the political sphere the country-wide enthusiastic support which was originally expected from India has not been forthcoming. The Chamber, however, fervently hopes that the political crisis which has

arisen in the country will prove to be of a brief duration only, and that through the endeavours of His Excellency the Viceroy, it may yet be possible for India to play in the present war a role equal to the full-fledged Dominions of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Coming to affairs nearer home, and in which this Chamber is more directly interested, the members of the Chamber hope and trust that subject to the overriding demands of the war, the Province will be fortunate enough to be favoured with Your Excellency's keen personal interest in the economic development of the Province on sound lines and the betterment of the material condition of the children of the soil. The Chamber is aware that significant changes have taken place in the powers and functions of the Governor under the new Constitution, with the result that under Provincial Autonomy, the responsibilities of administration have largely devolved on the representatives of the people. Nevertheless, it is the firm conviction of the members of this Chamber that the Governor can yet exercise a very healthy influence on the administration of the Province in all its spheres by his disinterested counsel.

It may have attracted Your Excellency's notice that a peculiar feature of Bengal's economy is the very poor share of Bengalees themselves in the trade, commerce and industry of the Province though Bengal is not less advanced than other Provinces. But owing to the existence of traditions favouring investment in land, and their initial success in the liberal professions and services, Bengalees have not in the past taken sufficient

interest in the commercial field. In recent years, however, there has been such a marked change in the situation brought about by the overcrowding of the liberal professions, and the onset of a slump in agriculture, that for sheer existence, the people of the Province must needs turn more and more to business and industry. Late-comers in the field as they are, the Bengalees have to encounter serious difficulties in establishing themselves against well-entrenched rivals. Their success becomes all the more difficult if unreasoned prejudice against the capitalists complicates and embitters the situation, and labour troubles act as a drag on the wheels of progress. The members of the Chamber sincerely believe that in such matters Your Excellency's influence might go a great way towards removing the impediments. The Chamber is not slow in recognising that with the increase of popular control in the Legislature under the new Constitution, there may be further inroads into the rights and privileges of the wealthier sections of the community. It also acknowledges that there is scope for improving the economic condition of the masses and stabilising the economic structure of the Province. At the same time, in view of the complicated nature of the situation and the desirability of Bengalees obtaining a larger share in the trade and industry of the Province, any serious and continued obstruction of the nature indicated by us would be prejudicial to the economic interest and general progress of the entire Province and of all classes and sections. And it is here that Your Excellency's counsel, guidance and personal influence, can more than anything else, ensure the

economic advance of the Province unhampered by a clash of conflicting interests. May we in this connection assure Your Excellency that in any work that is undertaken or in any step that is adopted for achieving the objects we have enumerated, the members of this Chamber would at all times readily offer their sincere co-operation in every way possible for making such endeavours successful.

In conclusion, we would again express our fervent wish for the success of Your Excellency's regime, and our heartfelt thanks for giving us this opportunity of offering to Your Excellency our sincerest felicitations.

Wishing Your Excellency and The Lady Mary Herbert long life, health and happiness.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Address of  
Welcome presented by the Bengal  
National Chamber of Commerce, on  
19th December 1939.***

DR. LAW, GENTLEMEN OF THE BENGAL NATIONAL  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

I thank you very warmly for the cordial welcome that you have extended to my wife and myself upon our arrival.

I am deeply conscious of the responsibilities to which I have been called at this critical juncture of affairs and I have been fortified by the ample evidence I have received that the causes for which the British Empire and its allies are engaged in the present struggle are causes which command the genuine sympathy of all classes and communities in India. I appreciate your assurance that your own sympathies lie with these causes and I share your confidence as to the ultimate issue of this struggle.

I can assure you without reserve of my keen personal interest in problems affecting the economic welfare of this Province. I believe, in fact, that the political genius of this Province has the greatest scope for constructive expression in approaching these problems in a spirit of realism and in devoting to them the sustained attention that they deserve.

I have listened with much interest to your analysis of the reasons why the people of this Province have lagged behind in the spheres of business and industry, and I entirely agree with you that a due recognition of the place of the



capitalist in the economic order is essential to the growth of industrial enterprise: for, left to itself, industry will choose the place which offers it the greatest facilities.

Yours is not the only Chamber which has referred to the drag on industry that may be caused by labour troubles. My Government are fully conscious of the importance of promoting good relations between capital and labour. They recognise that whereas discontent has on occasions arisen from genuine grievances, it has also on occasions been fomented by agitation not necessarily in the best interests of labour. Realising as they do the unfortunate effects that can be produced by labour unrest on the economic fabric of the Province, my Government spare no efforts to ensure that proper machinery is available for the settlement of genuine labour disputes. On the other hand, as I observed in reply to a similar comment a few days ago, my Government will do their best not only to prevent but also to counteract unconstitutional and subversive agitation amongst labour; but in doing so they intend to follow not merely a negative policy of prevention but also a positive policy of encouraging constitutional trade unionism. In the carrying out of this policy they ask for, and I believe will receive, the co-operation of capital.

Notwithstanding the complications of war, we in Bengal have great opportunities ahead of us. As you have said, the responsibility for exploiting those opportunities does not rest with the Governor personally, nor could any man or any Government.

claim to be able to exploit them unaided ; but the evidence that I have seen in this short time of what can be achieved in Bengal by co-operation between diverse classes and interests, and your own assurance of co-operation give me confidence in the future and lead me to hope that the opportunities before us will not be lost.

***Address of Welcome presented by the  
Calcutta Trades Association on 19th  
December 1939.***

On your arrival in Calcutta to take up the responsibilities of your august office as Governor of this Province of Bengal, we, the oldest Association in India offer you our greetings.

We know that Your Excellency will exercise your powers to the fullest advantage with justice to all creeds and communities, and you also will have in view the securing of a more complete understanding between the peoples of this Province and Great Britain.

We offer Your Excellency our affirmed loyalty and the will to support and co-operate in efforts to encourage and develop a spirit of friendship between the various communities in Bengal.

Now that our Empire is once again fighting for the freedom that can only be maintained by the championing of democratic ideals, unity of purpose in Bengal should be our contribution to that cause.

We, The Calcutta Trades Association were founded in the year 1830, with the object of promoting and protecting the interests of the trading community in Calcutta, and it is with pride we bring to your notice that certain founder member firms are still trading in this city to-day, and over this period of more than 100 years our predecessors have had the honour of welcoming gentlemen whose distinguished names embellish the records of public service in Bengal. Early this year it was with sincere grief that we mourned the

passing of a well-beloved Governor, the late Lord Brabourne who, in a short time, had established contact with all communities of this Province, and who, by his charm and grace, combined with true statesmanlike qualities, was able to create those friendships which are so much needed to bring about a state of common interest in Bengal.

Our Association was brought into being on the advice of Sir Charles Edward Grey, Chief Justice of Bengal. In 1830, acting on his suggestion, a meeting was convened in June of that year, when members of twenty-five firms attended. A decision was taken at that meeting to form a Calcutta Trades Association, and it is interesting to note that two of the firms attending the meeting are still active members of the Association to-day.

Our principal object remains the same as over a century ago, that is to protect and promote the trading interests of the retail business community of Calcutta. We have made it our duty to study and advise on legislation affecting trade, and through the medium of Government and other competent authorities, sought to obtain the removal of all restrictions on the development of trade and the welfare of our community. Measures in these directions receive our strongest support.

Representation on leading public bodies is an important activity of the Association, and we have representatives on almost all of the principal public bodies in the City of Calcutta.

In April 1937 there was introduced, in Bengal and other Provinces, provincial autonomy, and where the Association was represented in the old

**Legislative Council** by one member, it now has two in the new Assembly and its work is carried out in conjunction with the European group.

As will be appreciated, trading conditions have been difficult for some years past, and have been aggravated by the international situation in Europe. The outbreak of War on September 3 and the necessary commandeering of shipping by Government will, we fear, delay for some considerable time that flow of trade so essential to the prosperity of this country.

Your Excellency, we wait on you to-day to present our profound respects and to congratulate you upon your appointment to the exalted office of Governor of Bengal, and rejoice that this great Province will be afforded the opportunity of being benefited by the experience which you bring with you. We feel assured that the important and widely extended commercial and trading interests of this City will at all times during Your Excellency's tenure of office secure a full measure of your sympathetic attention.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Address of Welcome presented by the Calcutta Trades Association, on 19th December 1939.***

MR. HAMILTON, GENTLEMEN OF THE CALCUTTA  
TRADES ASSOCIATION,

It is a great pleasure to meet you to-day and I thank you most warmly for the welcome that you have extended to me. I appreciate very deeply—what you have said regarding the late Lord Brabourne, for knowing him as a friend myself I can realise the sense of loss at his passing, both here in Calcutta and wherever he was known. His memory will inspire all those who came within the wide range of his influence to work for those ideals of friendship and mutual understanding of which his public and private life were so perfect an example.

I have listened with much interest to the account you have given me of the history and aims of your Association, and am happy to know that after more than a century of change and transition you still retain direct links with the days of your first incorporation. The retail trade of Calcutta, whose interests are your special care, forms a valuable civic asset, and the representation that you enjoy in the Legislature and upon public bodies is a tribute to the manner in which you have safeguarded the interests committed to your charge.

I well realise that the war has confronted you with new problems and difficulties, especially owing to the dislocation of freights and shipping.

You will however find, I think, that the Central Government is anxious to maintain close touch with the situation and to see that, so far as the exigencies of war permit, the flow of trade is not unduly dislocated.

While speaking of special difficulties arising from the war I would like to take this opportunity of acknowledging the co-operation that my Government has received from your Association in a matter of great public importance—I refer to the restraint of profiteering and the work of price control. The fact that your President is a member of the Advisory Committee has been of great assistance to the Controller of Prices and has enabled him and the Committee to obtain information and advice of great practical value as regards business conditions in the retail trade of the city

We have met to-day, Gentlemen, chiefly to exchange greetings. As time goes on I feel sure that important matters affecting your interests will from time to time come to my notice, and I can assure you that, within the proper sphere of my responsibilities, such matters will receive the attention due to them. For the present, Gentlemen, I would only say how glad I am to have this opportunity of making your early acquaintance.

***Address of Weloome presented by the  
Muslim Chamber of Commerce on 19th  
December 1939.***

On behalf of the Muslim Chamber of Commerce, the only organised body of Muslim commercial opinion in India, we offer to Your Excellency a most cordial welcome to Calcutta, the centre of the economic life of Bengal, whose stewardship Providence has entrusted into Your Excellency's hands at a critical period when His Majesty's Government is engaged in War. It is, however, a matter of satisfaction to us that Your Excellency is no stranger to India. Bengal, one of the two major provinces in which the normal course of administration has not been disturbed by any constitutional complications, will look forward with hope and confidence to an era of progress and prosperity under Your Excellency's fostering care and helpful guidance.

We crave Your Excellency's permission to state with a sense of legitimate pride that the members of the Muslim Chamber of Commerce occupy an important position in the Indian mercantile community of this great city. It was in recognition of this fact that, although established in 1932, the Franchise Committee under the Government of India Act, granted us the right to send a representative to the Legislative Assembly of Bengal and public institutions like the Port Trust of Calcutta, the Bengal Board of Economic Enquiry, the leading railways and other organisations have accepted our collaboration on their boards and committees. We



hope that under Your Excellency's patronage our claims to representation in the Corporation of Calcutta, in the Calcutta Improvement Trust and the different governmental, semi-governmental, and nation-building organisations will receive encouraging support at the hands of the Government of Bengal.

Your Excellency, we need hardly point out that the development and expansion of industries, trade and commerce are not circumscribed by territorial boundaries. These depend, undoubtedly, on the interaction of economic forces beyond the control of governments and yet it has to be admitted that if these forces are harnessed by an intelligent use of the legislative powers of the State, much can be achieved in the direction of a betterment of the economic life of the people. We are conscious of the limitations imposed by the Government of India Act but at the same time we are of the opinion that there is ample scope, even within the narrow limits within which the responsibility of Governors has been hedged in, to take a longer view and to direct attention towards the attainment of self-sufficiency internally and wider and increasing markets outside, for the products of Bengal. The opportunities likely to open out for India as visualized by the statesmen in Great Britain and in this country, leave no room for doubt that the prospects for the future of this Province are distinctly hopeful and bright.

In this connection it is a matter for congratulation that our popular Government has directed its attention towards the rehabilitation on a permanent basis of the cultivation of Jute, the golden fibre of

Bengal, its "best money crop" and the basis of its staple industry. Now that the process has begun it is hoped that under Your Excellency's vigilant eye no stone shall be left unturned to achieve the desired objective.

In passing may we take the liberty of drawing Your Excellency's attention to the painful problem of the unemployment among educated middle classes and the pressing necessity of vocational training for these young men. We are conscious of the fact that schemes for the establishment of key and cottage industries have been engaging the attention of the local as well as the Central Government. We hope that these will now be pushed forward at an accelerated pace leading to an absorption of the unemployed youth of the Province and the raising of the general standard of life among its people.

We shall now conclude by wishing Your Excellency and The Lady Mary Herbert a pleasant and happy time in our midst. We assure Your Excellency of the loyal co-operation of the Muslim Chamber of Commerce in the great task to which you have set your hand. We pray that during Your Excellency's tenure of the exalted office of the Governorship of Bengal, this great and ancient country will attain its fullest stature of freedom and we feel confident that in the long line of the distinguished Governors of Bengal, Your Excellency will secure for yourself an abiding place.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Address of Welcome presented by the Muslim Chamber of Commerce, on 19th December 1939.***

SIR ABDUL HALIM GHUZNAVI AND GENTLEMEN OF  
MUSLIM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

May I, to begin with, Gentlemen, express my thanks for the welcome you extended to my wife and myself upon our arrival in Bengal. May I also say how pleased I am to be able to receive you to-day—this, I believe, being the first occasion on which your Association has presented an address to an incoming Governor since its inception seven years ago.

I well realise, however, that its importance is not to be judged by its age—a fact which has been recognised by the many instances you have quoted in which formal representation has been accorded to you.

I am advised that, in view of the recent amendment of the Calcutta Municipal Act, it is perhaps unlikely that questions of representation on that body will be reopened in the near future. On the other hand the question of amending the Calcutta Improvement Trust Act is already engaging the attention of my Government. The claim of your Association as well as the claims of other important interests to be represented on that body will, I am assured, be fully considered in that connection.

I share your satisfaction in the fact that constitutional development in Bengal proceeds uninterrupted in these difficult days. I count myself

fortunate to be at the head of a Province possessed of a responsible Government which now has nearly three years of experience and achievement behind it, for I realise, as you do, the magnitude and complexity of the tasks that confront us in the economic sphere—tasks which call for the co-ordinated ability and good-will of all communities.

When thinking of the most immediate of these problems, naturally jute is uppermost in your thoughts. I can assure you that this subject has loomed large in the minds of my Ministers and is one which, I know, will repay the closest study and the most earnest consideration.

You are no doubt acquainted with the steps which my Government has been taking not only to provide facilities for vocational training but also to improve and expand those facilities—a subject on which they are at present in consultation with the Educational Commissioner with the Government of India. Their investigations into the possibilities of increased employment and the labours of the Industrial Enquiry Committee are also known to you. Equally important however to the development of industries, both large and small, is the creation and maintenance of those conditions of finance, credit, marketing, communications and labour under which industrial enterprise can be attracted and fostered. That is not the task of any one department of Government nor can those conditions be created by any particular and isolated legislative or administrative action. To the creation of those conditions every department of governmental activity has its contribution to make. If industrial development be the accepted aim, then

every measure, legislative or administrative, that may be undertaken must be scrutinized from that point of view—to see how far it will or will not promote conditions favourable to the development of industrial prosperity. For the purpose of such scrutiny, the experience and informed criticism of associations such as yours can be of great value to Government and to the community as a whole.

I thank you again for your kind welcome ;  
I am happy to feel that your co-operation is assured  
in the tasks which lie ahead.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Indian Civil Service (Bengal) Association Dinner on 28th December 1939.***

I would like to thank you most warmly, Mr. Dutt and gentlemen, for the manner in which you have welcomed me this evening and for the opportunity you have given me so soon after arrival of widening my personal acquaintance with members of your Service. Your own optimism and enthusiasms, undiminished after 34 years of service through changing times, are a heartening greeting to one who like myself comes fresh to his task in Bengal.

When I was appointed Governor of this Province I fully realized that I was taking on a toughish job and before I left England I did my best to get to know something of the problems which I was to tackle here. I received a good deal of advice—a commodity which is available in abundance to every Governor-designate. It was, I suppose, good, bad and indifferent, but it did at least give me a little confidence that I would not land in India entirely ignorant of the difficulties ahead. But my well wishers in England forgot one thing; they forgot to warn me that one of my earliest tasks would be to stand up before an audience of expert administrators and talk to them about their own jobs. It is an alarming task for someone in my position who can, as yet, only claim a very limited knowledge of provincial administration, and I am going to crave your indulgence to speak in very general terms, as I did to the members of the United Service Club a short time ago. To those of you who

were present on that occasion I make no apology for repeating some of the things that I then said. You have put to me your point of view and I hope will continue to do so. In return I want to put mine to you.

I know that, as a Service, the present period of constitutional change has caused you many anxieties. This is quite natural for I suppose there is no one section of the community more profoundly affected by these changes than the Services, and change is always apt to arouse anxiety.

You know, no less than I do, that the Services, especially the Security Services such as yours, are the subject of one of the most important of the special responsibilities of the Governor. This responsibility is embodied in the Government of India Act and in the Instrument of Instructions issued to me by His Majesty. Its terms are both general and specific and extremely comprehensive: and the responsibility itself is a real one.

It was not to be expected that the responsibilities of Governors to the public services should never have been called into play during the early years of a period of profound and rapid transition, and it would be a mistake to think that those responsibilities are unreal because there has been little tangible evidence of their use. As I see it, the Governor's responsibilities were not intended to produce a series of bickerings with his Government, but to operate steadily and consistently towards building up correct relationships between a democratic Government and its public services. To build up those relationships the co-operation of

many parties is necessary—of the public—of the Legislature—of the Ministry—of the Governor and by no means least of the Services themselves. I am glad to feel that, despite difficulties, co-operation and mutual confidence upon major issues have been the keynote of the relationships between the Ministry and the Services in Bengal.

As an instance of the reality of safeguards, I might point out, I think with truth, that the rules regulating your conditions of service have not been changed to your disadvantage as a result of any political pressure during the last two and a half years. But the responsibilities of a Governor would be of a barren and negative kind if they were regarded merely as a device for maintaining the status quo. I regard them not as static but as dynamic—not as embodying a system of rigid veto upon change but as embodying what I may call the very articles of faith of progressive and democratic Government.

That may seem a strong statement to make of powers that have so often been attacked as the tentacles of what some people are pleased to call Imperialism; but when I say that these powers are the safeguards of progressive and constructive Government I am prepared to justify my statement. I am not going to justify it at length to-night. I merely put one proposition. If in 1933 the head of the German Reich had been vested with powers and obligations such as those contained in section 52 of the Government of India Act, if he had been under compulsion to fulfil those obligations, and if he had been in position to enforce their observance in case of necessity, the Nazi regime



which we are fighting to-day could never have come into existence. I leave you to work out for yourselves the implications of this proposition not only as regards India but equally as regards Europe or any other continent which is possessed of a geographical and cultural unity side by side with divergent racial characteristics and conflicting national interests.

You may come to the conclusion that the code of responsibilities enjoined upon the Governor of an Indian Province is not far different from the code that the Government of every nation must sooner or later accept as binding upon itself if there is to be peaceful progress and liberty of the human spirit in the world of to-day.

I realise quite well that in speaking to you I am speaking to men who are conversant with every branch of the administration and accustomed to pulling fine phrases to pieces and asking how they work in practice. I am myself sufficiently acquainted with politics and administration to know that in the conduct of day to day business all Governments fall far short of their ideals: but I believe that if we keep those ideals firmly before us we shall in the long run approach nearer and nearer to their fulfilment.

You may perhaps wonder how a Governor, living as he must apart from the general run of social life, can know what is really happening and how it compares with the aims that I have referred to. I can assure you that the Governor's contact with the administration is closer than is perhaps generally realised. I see, for instance, all questions

of importance in the Legislature before they are asked and in cases which I consider to be of special interest I see the answers also. I am afraid that those of you who are in the Secretariat will occasionally find me a nuisance. My excuse is that it is impossible for me to function in vacuo and that I really do like to know what is happening in matters where I am likely to be involved. I am in constant touch with Secretaries to Government and am always ready and anxious to make the acquaintance of District Officers when they come to Calcutta. My District tours will, I hope enable me to get a line on the "mofussil" point of view and I intend to continue the practice of Lord Brabourne and his successors of making as many quick and informal visits to Districts as possible. I want to see things at first hand, besides giving the local administrator a chance to tell me personally of his work, his troubles and his achievements. I am, however, fully conscious that there may be points of view which I have overlooked or of which, for various reasons, I am ignorant: I cannot do more than tell you that I am always anxious to hear such points of view and I hope you will not hesitate to speak frankly to me when we meet.

"All this, I fully realise, is very general and does not take into account individual anxieties, all this, you may think, does not justify any undue optimism in the future. My answer to that would be that just as a pessimist has been defined as a man who, when faced with the choice of two evils, chooses both, an optimist is a man who resolutely refuses to choose either. Pessimism is a sterile creed and gets us nowhere; it is often a hollow one. I am fortified

in this belief by an extract from a book on India which was brought to my notice the other day. A young Englishman was coming to India to take up his post in the Civil Service. On the boat were a number of senior men, one of whom spoke to him seriously. "Young man," he said, "you have made a serious mistake in joining the Civil Service and coming out to India now-a-days—the recent troubles have made the position very difficult and the good old days when the Civil Service was trusted and respected have gone for ever—you would have been better advised to stay at home." This may perhaps seem a very ordinary quotation—but what makes it interesting is that it is taken from a book called "The Diary of an East Bengal Civilian." This book was written, Gentlemen, not in 1934, nor even in 1919 or 1906 but nearly eighty years ago.

I feel I have already encroached sufficiently on your time but there is one thing further I must refer to. I am given to understand that some of you feel very strongly that individual civilians should be allowed, if they so wish, to enlist in His Majesty's Forces, and associate themselves more closely with the prosecution of the war. I can, and do, sympathise with what is, after all, a very natural desire; but whether or not it would be wise to allow it is a very different matter. The Government of India has set its face strongly against it for reasons which I personally consider to be right. I am not giving away any secrets when I remind you that there are subversive forces at work in India which are only too anxious to turn this war to their own advantage; we must face the fact that conditions may arise in which

our present administrative cadre may find its resources strained to the uttermost. Even when we have won the war we shall still have to fight the battle for an ordered and lasting peace. At the best we must look forward to a period of acute economic and social disturbance when the services of expert administrators will be at a premium. To allow at this stage any appreciable reduction of our administrative talent would be more than shortsighted—it would be sheer folly, and I, for one, am not prepared, at the present stage of the war, to view any such proposal with equanimity.

Let us look at the position as a whole. We have got to work as an organisation not only to win the war but to win the peace. War, as those of you know who have been in it, consists of periods of intense dullness interrupted by periods of intense danger and apprehension: your role in civil occupation may be duller by comparison and I hope, for your sake and the sake of the Province, that you will not again in the course of your civil employment have to face these dangers which your service faced so resolutely a few years ago. But whether dull or dangerous or both; you have your part to play and I know you will play it loyally and to the full.

I understand I shall have an opportunity of talking to many of you this evening and possibly you may like to underline the inadequacy of my general remarks by a few home truths—I can only say please do so if you feel like it. I will not keep you any longer now except to thank you once again for your kind welcome and to add my thanks for a very pleasant dinner.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Opening  
of the new Mulajore Generating Station  
of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation  
on 15th January 1940.***

MR. HOMAN, GENTLEMEN,

Your invitation to come to Mulajore this morning and open this vast new generating station has been a source of great pride and pleasure to me. This is not only because as Governor of the Province I am glad to see our resources of electrical energy so materially augmented but because the opening of a great plant such as this is an act of faith—faith that the great industries which have come into being in and about Calcutta will continue to thrive and expand in the future as they have done in the past. An undertaking such as this which involves an expenditure of more than two crores of rupees is not one which is undertaken lightly or without a careful consideration of the calls which are likely to be made upon it in years to come. The fact that the men who have been responsible for building up the Company from its comparatively small beginning 42 years ago to its present gigantic dimensions have had the confidence and courage to bring into being this vast plant which I am to open to-day is, I think, a good omen for the future industrial development of this area and for the part which electricity may be expected to play in this development.

The potentialities of electrical development have always fascinated me—a fascination which I freely admit is not unmixed with awe. I imagine, there,

are others who feel the same way—others who like me cannot claim a close acquaintance with its technical intricacies. But one point which I can fully appreciate and understand is the immense influence which electricity has on our everyday life. All of us who live within an area served by electricity must be conscious of this if we only pause for a moment to think of conditions as they were some 60 or 70 years ago when steam power had to be locally generated and when electric lights, fans and frigidaires which to-day contribute so much to the comfort of those who can afford them, were unknown luxuries.

In the area which is to be served by the Mulajore Station electricity is not a novelty and perhaps the immediate effect of this new source of power, great though it is, will not be as apparent as it would have been in a less developed area. But I regard the building of this great station as a pointer to what can be achieved and what we hope will be achieved, elsewhere in this Province. Bengal is, except for its industrial areas, comparatively undeveloped electrically. There are still more than 50 towns with a population of over 5,000 people, which have as yet no source of electrical supply and although the number of units sold throughout the Province has increased threefold during the last 10 years, there is still room for considerable expansion. This is a fact to which my Government is fully alive and in consideration of which they have recently had made a comprehensive survey of the entire Province with a view to accelerating electrical development. The difficulties, outside the industrial areas, are of course enormous—greater probably in

Bengal than in any other Province in India—but I believe that these difficulties will, in the course of time, be surmounted and I am strengthened in that belief by the courage and confidence which has been displayed in the building of the Mulajore Station.

I have listened with great interest, Mr. Homan, to your account of the unique character of this plant and to the important part played in its construction by firms within this Province and I am gratified to hear that a very considerable proportion of the expenditure has been of direct benefit to the labour force and the subsidiary industries of this area. Your Directors have further expressed their readiness to co-operate with my Government in any practical schemes for distribution of electrical energy in the Province. I, for my part, can assure you that my Government is fully conscious of the great technical and administrative experience which has been accumulated by your company during the long period you have operated in this area and greatly values your offer of co-operation.

And now Gentlemen, I will not detain you any longer and in setting in motion a portion of the plant and declaring the Station open, I couple with it the hope that it will contribute materially to the development of the Industrial area it is designed to serve.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Calcutta  
Trades Association Dinner on 30th  
January 1940.***

MR. HAMILTON, GENTLEMEN,

It is a very great pleasure for me to be here this evening and have the privilege of proposing the toast of the oldest Association in the City and also of meeting so many who are connected with one of the City's most important activities. I thank you most sincerely for your hospitality—and I have already learnt that in the matter of hospitality Calcutta is second to none.

The fact that I am a newcomer here makes me a little diffident in proposing the toast of an Association such as yours which has its roots deep in the history of the City and which has been so closely associated with the development of Calcutta. I am the more diffident because I have so far had neither the leisure nor the opportunity to wander down Chowringhee aimlessly—looking at those great establishments which are famed throughout India and the world.

The development of your Association corresponds to the real development that has taken place in the trading community as a whole. I refer to the change by which the retail trader has, in various degrees, developed from a craftsman to a distributor for the retail traders of old days were more often than not craftsmen who distributed their own wares. Although some retail traders, I am glad to say, still retain a close association with craftsmanship, the general—and I think the inevitable—trend is for the retail trader to become less and less of a



craftsman and more and more of a distributor. The craftsman-traders of old were a great civic asset, who recognised their responsibilities and discharged them. To realise this I need only ask you to picture for yourselves the burghers in the old walled cities of England or the founders of the Livery Companies in the City of London, one of whose functions, like yours this evening, was, and still is, to provide their guests with as good a dinner as the City can produce.

The outlook and responsibilities of these men and of these associations were of a municipal nature. Their interests lay primarily in the cities in which they lived and traded and particularly in the municipal affairs of those cities. In these activities they took an important and leading part, for good administration meant good trade and they were determined to have both.

To-day the trader has become a factor of far reaching importance in the economic structure of the country and he may be affected vitally not only by the affairs of the town or city in which he lives, but by what is going on outside. His interests are bound up with national policy and here in India he will inevitably find himself affected by the actions of the Provincial, Central and Imperial Governments.

An association of traders that wishes to keep abreast of the times and serve the true interests of its members must inevitably look beyond the immediate confines of the city. It must watch the progress of legislation and it must, in its own interests, endeavour to ensure that its own point of view does not go by default. This

policy, I know you are following. Already in the provincial sphere you take your full part in the Councils of the Legislature and the recently constituted Federation of Trades Associations will enable to place your views more forcefully before the Central Government. It is essential for your Association and the Federation to interest themselves in all legislation which may tend to affect the purchasing power of the community, for the trader of to-day not only supplies demand, but he also creates demand by developing new tastes and requirements. In this manner he stimulates a desire for a higher standard of life in which former luxuries are necessities, and it follows that his own prosperity depends upon the capacity of the man in the street or in the fields to buy more and ever more. It is by helping to increase the purchasing power of this large community that your greatest potential markets can be found.

Conditions as we meet here this evening are abnormal: the shadow of war which threatened so long has enveloped the world. In some respects war has brought an unexpected wave of prosperity to Bengal—but the important thing is to be thinking ahead and to consider well in advance how we are going to prepare for the inevitable slump that follows a war when some day this war will be ended. Here in Calcutta we do not feel the war so intensely as in those countries of the west where its perils are daily apparent in the precautions which have to be taken—where blackouts prevail, where buildings are sand-bagged and where gas masks are carried as a matter of course. But its ultimate implications are, in fact, just as serious for us in

India as they are to those who live closer to the actual scene of conflict. The ideals we stand or fall by are ideals the value of which, I feel sure, India as a whole understands. They are ideals in which, I am glad to see, Bengal has shown in no uncertain way that she believes. When replying to your address of welcome I referred with appreciation to the co-operation you afforded to the Controller of Prices in restraining profiteering. Although I know that this is by no means the only contribution you have made or intend to make to the war effort, your action came opportunely and was really helpful.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to emphasise that one of the most valuable ways in which we, far away from the actual scene of fighting, can assist the war effort is by keeping our heads and, above all, by keeping normal business going. I dare say many of your younger members have chafed at the restrictions which have been put in the way of their joining the fighting forces. I know this feeling exists in the non-combatant services in India, but the restrictions have not been imposed without very careful consideration and I would ask you to accept them as a very necessary measure for ensuring that our war effort is mobilised to the best advantage. In such an effort each has his task, and success will depend upon each individual doing his job—whatever it may be—efficiently and well.

This is the common endeavour in which we each have our share and in that spirit of fellowship I ask you, Gentlemen, to rise and drink the health of our hosts to-night—the Calcutta Trades Association.

***His Excellency's Presidential address  
to the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal  
on 5th February 1940.***

MR. PRESIDENT, GENTLEMEN,

I am very grateful to you for this opportunity of meeting the members of what, I think I am correct in saying, is the oldest and certainly one of the most illustrious learned societies in India. I hope however you will not take it amiss when I tell you at the outset that I intend to confine myself this evening to a few remarks of a very general nature. You have already been addressed by others, who have a longer and closer association with the Society than I have, and I feel I cannot, as a newcomer, lay claim to their close knowledge of your work and activities.

I am, however, fortified by one thing. The Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal was one of my first links with my present office. For this I am indebted to a certain Mr. Walters of Dacca who was instrumental, in the early part of the last century, in bringing to notice what has come to be known as the Bhowal plate. You must all be familiar by now with the history of this plate, how it lay for many years in the India Office, how it was recently discovered there, how you established your ownership to it and, lastly, how I was commissioned to bring it out to Bengal three months ago—a commission which at first I was reluctant to accept. The plate has a value which no insurance can cover, for mere money can never replace something ennobled by age and history. I feared that the

dangers of the voyage were such that I dare not risk submitting this valuable Plate to the hazards of war. But in the end—I brought it in my own cabin, so as to be responsible for its safety.

The plate is now in your custody and though I cannot claim a “vested” interest in the critical account of it which I understand is being published in the *Epigraphica Indica*, I shall look forward to seeing it with more than usual interest.

In these days of international strife and jealousy—factors which have once more plunged the world into a disastrous war—it is a relief not only, for scholars, but also for those whose task it is to play their part in active politics, to turn to the domain of pure scholarship and survey its achievements and progress. A true scholar—is not bound by considerations of national or racial advantage. He seeks to add to the sum total of human knowledge and cultural advance. Whilst some struggle to evolve, by means of treaties, or may be, a League of Nations, some method of living together in peace and enjoying the material comforts which modern science has made possible, scholars have for many centuries lived in a state what I cannot describe better than a state of international good-fellowship. The scholar has time to meditate upon the past, to consider its significance as affecting the future and to him knowledge of the past makes the present jealousies and hatreds of mankind seem futile.

When, on the other hand, attempts are made—as in Nazi Germany—to regiment and nationalize scholarship, the effect is to stifle and destroy its finest manifestations, removing this international flavour of mutual understanding.

Though your immediate activities are more closely concerned with the history and the culture of India, it is not, I think, inappropriate to recall the wider implications of your work and the importance which will be attached outside the Province and even outside India to the standard of scholarship and research for which you are responsible. It is for this reason that I welcome the greater extent to which scholars are availing themselves of your resources. A man who loves his country takes pride in its past, and you rightly encourage an increase in those who study the history of India, this great country which is the pride of her children and which we are proud to serve, each attempting to fulfil our share of responsibility for her development. By delving into the past we may learn useful lessons for the future.

You have, I know, a busy evening before you and I myself am anxious to look round your premises, so I will not detain you longer except to say once more what a great pleasure it has been for me to come here this evening to meet you and wish you success now and for the years to come.

***His Exoellenoy's Addresses to the gentlemen in presenting the Sanads and badges of their title and medal at the Garden Party held at Caloutta on 8th February 1940.***

**Rai Bahadur.**

RAI AKHOURY BHOLANATH BAHADUR,

You were appointed on probation as an Assistant Traffic Superintendent on the North Western Railway in 1914 and were confirmed in that appointment two years later. Since then you have served with credit on the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway and the Eastern Bengal Railway in which latter Railway you are now a District Traffic Superintendent. Your Work throughout has been characterised by efficiency and integrity which has earned the commendation of your superior officers.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Bahadur and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

**Khan Sahib.**

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI SULTAN ALI SAYYED,

A pleader of Bagerhat in the District of Khulna, you have to your credit a long record of voluntary public service. Amongst the positions you hold are those of Deputy Chairman of the Bagerhat Central Co-operative Bank Limited and member of the Khulna District Board. You have throughout, been

of great assistance to successive Subdivisional Officers, and, by the work you have done for the public, have gained the affection and esteem of all communities.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Khan Sahib and I have much pleasure in investing you with the Badge of that title.

### **Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Bronze.**

BABU AMARENDRA NATH RAY,

A sound and reliable officer of the Bengal Civil Service you have served with distinction for many years. During the years 1934 to 1937 your work at Kandi, in the District of Murshidabad, was of outstanding merit in organising relief measures and rendering assistance to the District Officer there during the prevailing distress.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Bronze Medal for public service in India.



***His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Meeting of the Calcutta Committee of the Kalimpong Homes on the 9th February, 1940.***

MR. CHAIRMAN, GENTLEMEN,

There are not many occasions on which I would really feel justified in addressing a Committee of such an institution as the Kalimpong Homes, without first having paid it a visit. This, however, is an exception to the general rule. Although I cannot, as yet, claim any personal acquaintance with the Homes I know something of the work which you have done and much about the respect in which the Homes, and you Dr. Graham, are held not only in India but throughout the Empire. Bengal has good reason to be proud of the Kalimpong Homes and I deem it a privilege to have been invited here this evening to meet you and become more closely acquainted with your affairs.

I have been impressed by Mr. Studd's remarks and I feel sure that the Board of Management is right not to belittle its difficulties but to face them. I have been told that in years gone by the Homes enjoyed the advantage of having a succession of wealthy and benevolent men in Calcutta business circles who frequently visited Kalimpong and saw for themselves the work the Homes were doing. Some of those visitors were men who could, on occasions, produce a lakh of rupees from their pockets. That type of visitor unfortunately no longer exists in Calcutta: for some years past few people have been blessed by surplus

lakhs of rupees. There is only one course in these changed circumstances and that is that there must be more pockets to draw upon and more and more people prepared to take a lively interest in the affairs of the Homes and to follow their fortunes closely. As you have pointed out, the fact must be faced, that during war time conditions in England, it is difficult to expect the same amount of help from there as before, but India and Calcutta have so far, if anything, been more prosperous owing to the war and it is here that you must look for countervailing help.

Anyone who has read even in brief the bare history of the Kalimpong Homes and Dr. Graham's own life-long services must feel that here is a magnificent work which must be carried on and made to endure. There are no limits to the demands that we can make on Dr. Graham's spirit, but there is a limit to the demand that we ought to make upon his energies, and the time must come when the Governing Body and its affiliated committees must be prepared to shoulder more and more of the burden so long borne unflinchingly by one man and a few devoted colleagues. To this service I believe that the Homes should call the best talent and ability that may be forthcoming not only in Kalimpong and Darjeeling but also in the business world of Calcutta, and I venture to believe that the call will not be in vain.

The past year has brought its inevitable losses and I join with you in mourning the death of Sir Daniel Hamilton and Mr. Calvocoressi, two staunch supporters of the Homes who have done much to

help in the past. There is however one notable feature to which you have drawn attention in your magazine and I make no apology for mentioning it. I refer to the anonymous gift of Rs. 500 from an ex-pupil who, I gather, could ill-afford such a munificent gift. This is an indication that even though war conditions may result in a reduction of private charity—there are still those who are willing to help even at considerable sacrifice to themselves. And with good will such as this we may be sure that material help will be forthcoming.

***His Excellency's Speech at the laying  
of the foundation-stone of the new  
building of the Burdwan Raj College  
on 13th February 1940.***

MR. FAZLUL HUQ, MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR,  
GENTLEMEN,

Before I come to the main purpose of my address this morning I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for the very kind welcome my wife and I have received at Burdwan. If time had permitted I would have made this visit longer and more comprehensive—one in which I could have talked to you more fully about the many administrative problems with which the District is faced. As it is—within the limited time at my disposal—I hope to meet as many people as possible and hear, in the course of interviews, at least something of your difficulties. It is, however, a matter of great satisfaction that I am enabled to meet so many of you together at a function such as this. I hope that the outcome will be a milestone in the history of education in Burdwan.

The Burdwan Raj College is one of the oldest and most illustrious educational institutions of the Province. The history of its growth and development from the Anglo-Vernacular School founded 123 years ago is a matter of general knowledge on which I need not enlarge. So too, is the profound debt which it owes to the great Burdwan family of which you, Maharajadhiraja Bahadur, are now the head. It has been the privilege of certain great houses, throughout history to foster the development

of the Arts and Sciences and this tradition has rarely been more worthily maintained than in the case of the Burdwan Raj College which owes, in no small degree, its present important position amongst the District Colleges of Bengal to the support it has constantly received from the house of Burdwan.

The modern educational system is however a vast and complex organisation. It is also an expensive one. It is thus, in the fitness of things, that the State with its resources of organised knowledge and its access to the public purse should, to an increasing extent, give assistance to those institutions which owed in the past—and in fact still owe—so much to private help and charity. My Government has recognised this development—a development which is common to all progressive States—and has more and more, busied itself in promoting and assisting those great nation building activities amongst which Education must always hold an important place. The considerable subvention which they have made towards this new building is a recognition of this. But it is still more : it is a recognition also of the tradition of good scholarship for which the Burdwan Raj College has always stood ; a tradition which it will, I feel sure, continue to maintain with the added amenities which are shortly to be placed at its disposal.

This tradition of good scholarship is a factor of great importance and one of which we must not allow ourselves to lose sight. It is not one which is necessarily associated with comfortable surroundings and modern amenities. The great schools and Universities of the world—in the West no less than in the East—developed without the material

advantages which we associate with educational institutions to-day. They developed from groups of students who followed and studied under eminent scholars, often in conditions of the greatest penury and discomfort. Much of the world's most profound philosophy and much of the world's greatest literature was evolved under conditions such as these. But learning, under such conditions, suffered from one grave defect. It was for the select few only. Those who were not fortunate enough to come within this select circle remained unlettered and sunk in ignorance. Our modern ideals are more universal: they aim at opening up the field of literature and science to all who have the will and the aptitude to seek knowledge therein. It is not everybody who can attain the highest degrees of scholarship but as many as possible should be given the opportunity of seeing for himself or herself what education and scholarship has to offer.

It is in the pursuit of this ideal of wider educational opportunities that our primary education system in the Province is expanding and that institutions such as the Burdwan Raj College are steadily offering increased facilities to their students. It is, therefore, a duty which both scholars and teachers owe to the Province as a whole to see that with the increasingly large field from which students—and also teachers—are drawn, there is no falling off in educational standards. I confidently believe that in laying the foundation stone of this new building on this particular day I need have no fear on this score, and that not only will the old and longstanding tradition of this college be maintained but it will, in the future, reach an even

more distinguished level. May I add what a great<sup>st</sup> pleasure it is to have named after me a building which will not only represent so much to the District when it is complete but will stand on the land of one whom I have come to regard as a trusted friend.

Today is also a milestone in my life as this is the first foundation stone I have laid since assuming office: it is also the first building in India to be named after me.

I feel sure that I am voicing the thoughts of all when I say that the founding of a building to be consecrated to the pursuit of learning on this auspicious day augurs well for its growth and prosperity in the years to come.

***His Exoellenoy's Reply to the addresses  
presented at Jalpalguri on the 14th  
February 1940.***

GENTLEMEN,

It is a real pleasure to my wife and myself to be able to repair, at this season, to the freshness of Northern Bengal and our pleasure is heightened by the warm welcome you have given us.

This is my first formal visit to a Bengal District and I look forward to meeting people of all shades of opinion and representatives of the various public bodies which co-operate in the running of the District. I only regret that under pressure of time I must postpone until a later occasion the extensive tour, in the Duars that Lord Brabourne had planned when his disastrous illness overtook him. I hope, however, to see as much as I can of towns and country, and to widen my personal knowledge of the affairs, the outlook and the daily lives of the people of this District.

I observe, Gentlemen, that the subject of Communications looms large in your addresses to-day, beginning, I may fairly say, with the Railway Station where I first descended, this morning. The desirability of a higher platform is, I think, admitted but the problem which faces the State Railways is the order in which a large number of schemes can best be undertaken with limited funds. Your own claim can most appropriately be pressed through the appropriate members of the local Advisory Committee, but you may rest assured that your remarks will be brought to the notice of the Railway authorities.



Turning from Railways to Roads, I can well understand the anxiety you have displayed that road communications should be developed with all possible speed. A proper expansion of the road system is a vital factor in the economic life of any District—particularly in the marketing of agricultural produce—and my Government is fully aware of the importance which must be attached to it. The Provincial Board of Communications has, in fact, approved new schemes to the value of more than 4 crores of which nearly 3 crores has already been approved by the Central Government. The total estimated cost of schemes already in progress amounts to nearly 1½ crores. The importance of the Falakata-Alipur Duar Road has not been overlooked and, if the Legislature approves, it is hoped to begin work during the course of the next two or three years. Another project in which you are vitally interested—I refer to the North Bengal Highway from Calcutta to Siliguri—is already under way in the neighbouring District of Dinajpur. It is clearly impossible to take up the entire length of this great work at once but the construction of the portion which is to pass through Jalpaiguri will be considered in its turn.

I have been interested to hear that you now have three landing grounds certified for light planes and congratulate you, gentlemen of the Duars Planters' Association and the District on the initiative that you have shown in this matter. Government have now under consideration schemes for the improvement of the Jalpaiguri landing ground and the landing ground in the Siliguri Subdivision—but I suggest that expense of landing grounds for larger

planes will need consideration as compared with the demand and this depends upon the possibilities of development of air services.

Telephones are another important link in communications. The scheme for their development, as you know, comes under the Central Government, and has had to be abandoned in view of the rising cost of materials. When however you feel yourselves in a position to resume negotiations, you may rest assured of the full sympathy and help of my Government.

Two interesting suggestions have been made which bear directly on the question of Communications. It has been suggested that the present Land Acquisition Act is unnecessarily dilatory. That delays are involved by preliminary enquiry is admitted— but compulsory acquisition of land is a drastic process and it is essential to see that owners of private property are afforded full opportunity for stating their case before their lands are acquired. No better method than the present one has yet been evolved to safeguard them against injustice.

You, Gentlemen of the District Board, have drawn attention to the changed policy of Government in the matter of free grants of Government land. It is clear, I think, that if Government disposes of property in its possession it must exhibit the fact in its accounts and submit its action to the control of the Legislature. To make a free gift of Government land would amount to making a concealed subsidy, and would be both constitutionally and financially objectionable. I am informed however that the question of making a contribution to the District Board to enable it to pay compensation awarded by

the Land Acquisition Officer is a matter which the Local Self-Government Department is prepared to consider in individual cases on their merits.

I turn now to matters bearing upon Public Health and Sanitation and Medical treatment. I am interested to hear of the Municipal Scheme for improved accommodation and amenities for sweepers and *methars*. My Government approves of this scheme and is now considering the grant of a loan. The request for a grant in aid would however involve a new class of financial commitments which my Government are not in a position to undertake.

In regard to malaria control, my Government are aware of the work done by the Duars Tea Industry, and have fully realised the necessity of co-ordinating the efforts of Departments of Government, local authorities, and the owners of private property in defence against a common enemy—the mosquito—who is no respecter of boundaries, either departmental or local. The anti-malarial schemes prepared at the request of Government by the Jalpaiguri District Board will be placed before the Sanitary Board, and if they are approved, the Minister for Public Health hopes to see them financed by collaboration between Government and the local authorities. In the preparation and practical execution of such schemes local bodies may expect in the future to have the assistance of a Malarial Engineer in the Public Health Department whom Government have decided to appoint. My Government will welcome practical suggestions from you on the subject of effective control and co-operation.

This Division may justly congratulate itself on the example set by the co-operation and financial

support of the Tea Industry both Indian and European, and the local bodies in the Division, through which it was possible to bring about the improvement of the Headquarters Hospital, and thereby to preserve the Medical School. I am advised that my Government accept responsibility for financing the School and have in fact completed its electrification in accordance with a slightly modified plan necessitated by certain errors in the original proposals. They adhere however to the policy that the maintenance and improvement of the Hospital is a local responsibility: such funds as were obtained from the Legislature for special grants to Sadar Hospitals should, they feel, be applied to places where, in their view, the immediate needs are more urgent.

Educational matters have rightly claimed prominent mention in your addresses.

You, Gentlemen of the Municipality and Anjuman, have asked for the establishment of a College. The desire to provide facilities for Higher Education is one with which I can and do sympathise and I am assured that should a practical scheme for this be evolved my Government will give it careful and sympathetic consideration. At the same time I must emphasise that my Government attach the greatest value and importance to the existence, at District Headquarters, of properly controlled and financed High Schools and would not look with favour on any scheme which involved the partial or total abolition of the present Zilla School.

You, Gentlemen of the Ajuman, touched on an allied problem when you asked for a temporary abolition of the Primary Education Cess. My Government have already intimated their inability to accede to your request and I need not elaborate the reasons which led them to do this. The general policy that Primary Education can only be introduced if the local cess is levied is now well established: accepting that policy, as we must, it cannot be said that the present time is inappropriate for its application, when the prices both of tea and of agricultural produce are distinctly on a higher grade than before.

Finance of course is the key to many of your problems especially those of the District Board whose resources, I know, are inelastic. It is with some regret therefore that I have to tell you that neither of the suggestions you have made for an increase in resources has been found acceptable. I cannot, in view of the opinion of my advisers, hold out to you any prospect of a revision of the system by which cess collected by Government from its own tenants is no longer paid to the District Board in advance before it is collected. To do so would require an amendment of the law; and having regard to the high percentage and comparative regularity of collection and payment to the District Board by Government, my Ministers are not convinced that they should revert to a system which would deplete the Provincial balances by advance payments to local authorities.

For not dissimilar reasons the suggestion that a specific share of the Jute Duty should be allotted to District Boards has proved impracticable. Bengal's

share in the Central Export Duty on Jute, is, under the Niemeyer Settlement, an essential part of Provincial Revenues which must go to the common pool: large and increasing grants are already made to District Boards from Provincial Revenues as a whole. The special tax on jute exported from Calcutta for the benefit of the Calcutta Improvement Trust yields some 12 or 13 lakhs only per year and, as a matter of law under the Government of India Act, the Provincial Government have no power to divert this tax to any other purpose than that for which it was imposed.

Finally gentlemen to deal with two or three matters that concern landlord and tenant. The question of the protection of town tenancies is at present under enquiry by a Government Committee and a Bill to provide for interim protection of certain classes of such tenants is now before the Legislature. It would not, therefore, be appropriate for me to make any comment at the present stage.

I am aware of the emphasis with which the case of the Jalpaiguri Khas Mahals—especially as regards the recent enhancement of rents—has been advocated in the counsels of Government during the last two or three years. I can say, however, that my Ministers have come to the conclusion that, in comparison with adjoining territories and with the rest of the Province, the rates charged for Khas Mahal land in Jalpaiguri are moderate and, in view of their responsibility for the Provincial Revenues, they are not prepared to advise reduction. As regards the suggestion that the enhancement is due to wrong classification of the lands at the last Settlement, I must point out in the first place that

the classification is made by experienced Revenue officers and that the Settlement procedure provides ample scope for filing objections and taking the cases before Revenue Courts. If, however, there has been any subsequent deterioration, it is still open to the tenants to move the Deputy Commissioner for redress.

The question of pasturage for cattle in forest areas which you, Gentlemen of the Indian Tea Planters Association, have raised, is one to which the responsible Department have given much serious consideration; they have been driven to the conclusion that further forest areas cannot be opened up for grazing on account of the disproportionate damage done to the forest thereby. It is the considered view of the Department of Agriculture that the extension of pasture land in this Province, with its dense population and intensive cultivation, is not a practicable proposition; they have therefore turned their attention to the cultivation of fodder crops and in particular, of Napier grass one acre of which will support more animals than ten acres of open pasture. I commend their efforts to popularise this crop to your sympathetic support.

Gentlemen, there are many other matters of interest in your addresses, and do not think that because I may not refer to them, I have overlooked them or failed to seek and obtain both information and, where necessary, advice upon them. I feel however that I should be trying your patience were I on this present occasion to enter into detailed discussion of matters which I shall have an opportunity of discussing with those whose interests are more particularly affected, in the

course of personal interviews which have been arranged during my stay.

I have tried within the limitations imposed by the formal nature of this occasion to review briefly the broader problems of wide interest that your addresses have raised, and with that, for the present I will ask you to be content.

In all our thoughts and through all that we do, we are conscious that we are living and working against a background of war. I well know that many of those whom I shall meet here have been waiting for the opportunity of personal service and I appreciate what you have said in your addresses regarding our unanimity of purpose. We have had ample warning of dark and difficult days ahead but we know that the effort of the Empire and its Allies will not relax until success is won: though the actual field of conflict is remote we realize that the very basis of the civilization we believe in has been threatened and that the cause for which we are fighting has the true sympathy of Bengal and India. We have our part to play in maintaining the peace and prosperity of our Province both for its own sake and for the sake of the contribution in resources that we can make to the war effort: beyond that we must look ahead and must think hard how to plan for the future in the hope of mitigating to some extent the inevitable slump that follows when war is over.

We thank again you for your warm and generous welcome. We are meeting many of you now for the first time but I trust that during my term as Governor of this great Province we shall have opportunities to meet again and to know each other better.



***His Excellency's Reply to the Addresses  
presented at Bankura on the 19th  
February 1940.***

GENTLEMEN,

It is a great pleasure to me to have this opportunity of visiting your District so soon after my arrival in Bengal and I thank you for the cordial welcome you have given to my wife and myself and for your assurances of loyalty and of sympathy in the struggle which the Empire is waging against the barbarities of Nazi aggression. This is a war not confined to the field of battle. The ideals for which we are fighting are fundamental to ordered progress and to liberty. The sympathies of India as a whole are with the cause for which the Empire and its Allies are fighting, and remote though we are from the present scene of conflict we have our responsibilities, and shall fulfil them in order to aid to the best of our ability the final victory for which we must continue to strive till it is won.

My visit to Bankura is not as long as I should have liked to make it but I hope it will be long enough for me to see for myself how matters are progressing in this town and District and to widen my first hand knowledge of the lives of its people. You have mentioned to-day some of your difficulties and problems. Others will, I hope, be raised freely by those of you whom I shall meet during my stay.

I realise that in a visit as short as this what I can see and hear for myself is strictly limited. I have had one opportunity this year of spending

several days, at comparative leisure and with great freedom of movement, among the villages—though not in this District—and I would have liked to have more of such opportunities here also. I have tried, however, to make the most of my brief stay by a study in advance of a great deal of information which I hope to verify and expand during the course of my programme in the District. Your addresses, Gentlemen, have been most helpful to me in directing my attention to the problems which are uppermost in your minds, and if I do not attempt to give you a categorical answer to each of the questions you have raised, do not imagine that I have failed to make enquiries about them and to give them a good deal of thought. It seems to me—and I express this only as a tentative opinion—that the ultimate solution of many of your difficulties lies in dealing successfully with two problems—those of water and forests. If you could get water to the places where it is wanted and at the times when it is needed many of your problems, both of health and wealth, would have advanced a long way to solution. Also, if I am correctly advised, a process of reafforestation to restore the balance of nature in this part of the Province would have a considerable effect, not only on the problem of water but on the allied problems of richness of the soil and general health and prosperity. It has been found that there has during the last 15 years been an alarming decrease in the area under forest owing to unwise cutting and grazing and over wide areas the soil has been eroded to the depth of several feet. The storage capacity of the soil has thus decreased and the amount of

water available in the hot weather is much less in consequence : these facts alone bring out the importance of the matter to the life of the District.

Now, Gentlemen, the Darakeswar Reservoir project, to which you have referred, is the biggest feature in what I may term a long-range policy. Its cost is estimated at not less than a crore and twenty lakhs of rupees, but its benefits are estimated to affect  $1\frac{3}{4}$  lakhs of acres. The question to which I would ask you earnestly to apply your minds is whether those who would benefit by this scheme can be induced to repay the expenditure over a long period of years out of their increased profits ; for, so far as my Government can see, there is no prospect of undertaking these vast schemes of irrigation at the expense of the general revenues of the Province.

On the matter of reafforestation I will say but little at present, because this is the subject of a report which is still to be considered by my Government. But the essence of those proposals is that those who own forests and those who live near them must be prepared to suffer some immediate inconvenience for the sake of the future of the land and its people.

If my diagnosis of the situation is wrong some of you will not, I hope, hesitate to correct me during the course of our subsequent personal discussions. If, however, it is right and if it is true that in water and in forests lies the ultimate source of more wealth and more health for this District then I would ask you to realise, and make others realise, the necessity of shouldering over a period of years responsibility for repaying the cost of the necessary measures.

I admit that all this seems a long way off and indeed any long-range policy must seem a long way off when it is started. Meantime you ask, not unnaturally, what can be done here and how to deal with the problems you have raised. I propose to touch briefly on that matter in the remaining portion of my remarks this morning, but I would emphasise the long-range policy first because as has been truly said—"without vision the people die".

In the near future something can be done on a small scale to improve local irrigation by the early application of the Bengal Tanks Improvement Act. I am glad to be able to inform you that my Government has already taken steps in this direction. An estimate has been obtained for excavating silted-up tanks which are actually used for irrigation purposes, and funds have been provided in the coming year's budget to assist in carrying out this work in the manner you have suggested.

Much can also be done to deal with the problem of leprosy, though here again I am advised that the ultimate solution of this problem lies not merely in isolation and in curative treatment, but in the strengthening of the population against the incidence of this disease by better diet: this implies better agriculture and greater variety of crops which in turn implies better irrigation and better soil. My Government, do appreciate the commendable zeal and energy that the District Board has shown in measures to combat this disease and are prepared to consider sympathetically the grant of an adequate contribution to your revised scheme upon settlement of certain outstanding points in respect of which it has been returned to you for modification.

You have also referred to the increasing incidence of Malaria. Although, so far as this pernicious disease is concerned, the District compares favourably with other areas in Western Bengal, it is clear that you cannot view with equanimity any deterioration in your present position and I am gratified to hear that you have already taken steps to deal with the situation. My Government are always ready to co-operate with you and assist you as far as lies within their power, in the drawing up and execution of anti-malarial schemes: for this purpose an expert anti-malarial engineer will shortly be appointed whose services will be available to you. As regards grants-in-aid my Government are at present considering a change in policy whereby instead of making contributions for local and minor anti-malarial works, larger grants will be given for undertaking work of a more or less permanent nature. I should perhaps add that the responsible Department is at present awaiting the submission of certain specific schemes which were returned to your District Board for revision in pursuance of this change of policy.

In the municipal area the question of malaria is, I have no doubt, connected with the need for drainage and the filling up of insanitary *dobas*. As regards these *dobas* I am advised that the Municipality has full power under the law to do away with pools of waste and stagnant water and to regulate the making of fresh excavations. I can express no opinion whether it would be practicable for you to compel the owners of private property to take action in this matter, but I should have thought

that, even if financial difficulties do exist, a process of compulsion combined with the exploitation of voluntary labour would in due course show results.

Drainage is, of course, a more technical matter, but I understand that a complete scheme for drainage was prepared by the Public Health Department several years ago and that parts of it were carried out by the Municipality from year to year. I shall be interested to hear more about this matter and to know whether it is possible for that policy of the Municipality to be resumed.

It is impossible for my Government to commit themselves to schemes for assistance of one Municipality which would involve claims from others beyond the financial capacity of Government to satisfy. As regards your water-supply, therefore, I can only state that the Public Health Department will be glad to provide you with expert advice, and the question of a Government contribution, in accordance with accepted policy, will be sympathetically considered upon preparation of a feasible scheme.

I must say, Gentlemen, that I am concerned to observe the great gap between the amount of taxation due from the ratepayers and the amount that is actually collected. I am in no position to say whether the municipal assessment is too high or whether the collection itself is to blame, but so long as the assessment stands as it does and the collection is so small in comparison with it, I feel that you are laying yourselves open to obvious criticism and weakening the case for outside assistance: this I feel is a state of affairs which in your own interests you would be well advised to improve.

You, Gentlemen of the District Board, are admittedly in the position of being endowed with inelastic finances and it is for this reason that, in common with other District Boards, the carrying out of your work depends to a great extent on grants made by Government for specific purposes. Such grants, I understand, account in normal years for more than one third of your total income. The Education cess is one of the few ways in which it has been found possible to expand the income available for District activities and Primary Education is so vast a task that my Government regard it as impossible for them to undertake it unless the Districts make their contribution. They feel that those who pay a cess of this nature will see results in direct benefit to the children of the District and that the effort is one that ought to be made by those most directly concerned, for the benefit of the coming generation.

In the matter of Communications your District, is, I am advised, fortunate compared to many in the Province. As regards the Gandheswari river, I understand that the stone causeway maintained by Government keeps the crossing open except for some 9 or 10 days in a year. I agree that the lack of a good bridge over the Darakeswar is a serious drawback, especially as it detracts from the value of the fine system of metalled roads to the south of the river. The construction of such a bridge has been suggested, as you observe, in Mr. King's report, but having regard to the projects already taken up in the Province as a whole, I find that I can hold out little hope of this project being undertaken from the Road Development Fund in the immediate future.

I share your concern regarding the gradual disappearance of indigenous industries in the District and the precarious state of those which have survived. This state of affairs is not peculiar to Bankura and it is one to which the Industries Department has devoted a good deal of anxious consideration. Both the silk and the bell metal industries, I am told, suffer from lack of organisation and lack of a selling organisation that has the interests of the producer at heart. The solution of these difficulties appears to lie in a further intensification of co-operative effort. I have been glad to hear that the position of the silk weaving industry as a result of the improved designs and marketing facilities introduced by the Department, is now more promising. In the case of this industry the Co-operative Credit Department proposes to see what improvement can be effected by constant and concentrated supervision over a small group of societies and you will be pleased to know that Bankura District has been chosen for this experiment. I must however stress the necessity for co-operation on the part of the producers especially in the prompt execution of orders and in supplying repeat orders correct to sample. I trust that the experiment will be successful and will redound to the prosperity of the District.

I recognise, Gentlemen, that I have been able to hold out little hope of the early fulfilment of schemes involving heavy expenditure and I would return again to what I have already said regarding the ultimate essentials for progress in this District. If anything that I have said should set men thinking as to the necessity not only of pressing



for schemes of development and irrigation but also of convincing those who are directly concerned to come forward and shoulder the burden of repayment out of their enhanced profits, I shall feel that our interchange of views has not been in vain.

May I, in conclusion, reiterate the warm thanks of my wife and myself for your cordial welcome this morning.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Addresses  
presented at Midnapore on the 22nd  
February 1940.***

GENTLEMEN,

I thank you warmly for the welcome that you have extended to my wife and myself this morning and for the kind things you have said about me personally. I appreciate and acknowledge your expressions of loyalty to the Throne at this critical period in the history of the Empire.

The war, into which the world has been plunged by the ambition of one small group of men, is none of our seeking and we would have avoided it had it been possible : we have entered upon it in no spirit of bravado but with a full realisation of the horrors that it entails. The issues at stake go far beyond the geographical confines of the field of conflict : it is in the interest of every civilized nation that the doctrine of brute force and aggression should again be proved a failure : the system we are fighting to paralyse is one that denies and ridicules the essential liberty of the spirit of man. The real sympathies of India are with us and I believe with you that we shall not fail.

Yours is the last District I shall visit on this varied and, I might add, strenuous tour. I look forward while in Midnapore to seeing as much not only of headquarters but also of the outlying parts of the District and its people as time will permit.

I thank you for giving me this morning so clear a picture of your activities, your achievements and

your most pressing needs. I have already been able to ascertain a great deal concerning them and I value highly the opportunity that I shall now have of personal discussion with many of you. I hope that those whom I may meet will speak to me fully and frankly of the matters in which they are interested.

I am glad to hear what you have said on the subject of the improved political situation in the District and I earnestly hope that terrorism will never again become the menace to peaceful and ordered progress that it was a few years ago. It is gratifying to hear that the policy of my Government during the last two years has been appreciated in the District and has, in your opinion, contributed so largely, to the restoration of happier conditions. On my Government's behalf and on my own I would take this opportunity of thanking all those in the District who have contributed to this improvement. At the same time I would be failing in my duty towards those officers of Government who had the distasteful task of enforcing restrictive measures, now fortunately no longer necessary, if I did not add that the present policy was only made possible by their success in controlling the subversive forces which at one time threatened to destroy the very foundations of Law and Order. But these, Gentlemen, are reflections on which I do not propose to dwell further and I join with you in the hope and belief that your District is now firmly embarked on a course of ordered and constitutional progress.

Gentlemen of the Municipality, you have referred to the financial commitments into which you entered

when your Water Works Scheme was initiated 18 years ago and you have asked for a reduction of interest on the outstanding balance of the loans that you took from Government. I admit that at first sight it may seem ungenerous for Government to continue to charge six and six and half per cent. on your loans when others more recently given have been granted at 3 per cent. You will recognise however that the converse is also true—namely that those who have borrowed from Government at a time when interest rates were low will continue to get the benefit even though interest rates have since risen. As a matter of principle it is only by adhering to the terms of each contract that Government can protect itself against loss. Were it possible for you at present to raise a loan in the open market at a lower rate, my Government would raise no objection to accepting earlier repayment of your six and six and a half per cent loans, but I fear that in the present state of the money market such a course will not be easy.

I have had enquiries made regarding the position and prospects of the Midnapore College. I am informed that while no decision has yet been taken to modify the general position as laid down by Government in 1933, the matter will be reviewed by the Hon'ble Minister. I also understand that proposals for the opening of B. A. classes in the College have been submitted by the Director of Public Instruction to the Ministry of Education which now has them under examination.

Turning now to matters in the rural areas, may I say how interested I have been to hear your account of Village Reconstruction activities in this

District. The District Board grant of twenty five thousand rupees is a notable contribution to a great cause: if you can create on the one hand the desire for better conditions and on the other hand the determination to do practical work in order to obtain them, you will, I believe, be assured of far reaching results. I congratulate you on the start you have made and wish you every success.

My Government attach great importance to this work and have under consideration proposals which, when matured, should make it possible to afford greater facilities to local organisations both in village reconstruction and adult education.

Gentlemen of the District Board, I have heard with interest and appreciation the account given in your address of the steps taken to improve the amenities of the District from the point of view of Public Health, Education and Communications. May I take this opportunity of congratulating you on your success up to date and of expressing the hope that your efforts, which have produced such excellent results, will in no way be relaxed.

The question of leprosy, on which you have laid special emphasis, is one which has for some time been engaging the attention of my Government, who have had under consideration the possibilities of tackling the problem as a whole in each of the twelve Districts affected. It is recognised, however, that Midnapore is one of the Districts in which the matter is more acute than most. Your own proposals for clinics on a contributory basis differ in some respects from the Departmental proposals. But I am informed that

they are at present being examined, and will receive sympathetic consideration.

As regards your scheme for a Leper Home, I am glad to be able to tell you that, although my Government have not found it possible to make the additional grant asked for, they have, out of the land originally acquired at the instance of the Mission of Lepers sanctioned the transfer of 200 acres of land at Salboni in order to assist the establishment of an asylum for 50 lepers. I wish the scheme every success.

Your scheme to set up a Power Driven Factory Type of Weaving School to train unemployed youths for work in cotton mills is a venture of great interest. It is in accord with the policy of the Department of Industries which has recently expanded and reorganised a similar scheme in the Bengal Textile Institute. I am gratified to know that you have taken the initiative in applying this policy locally with the assistance of the Department. It is most regrettable that War conditions have delayed the obtaining of machinery but I can assure you that the Department will make every effort to help in getting it and will take a lively interest in the scheme.

The question of establishing School Boards is one which Government, for financial reasons, have had to consider along with the imposition of Primary Education Cess. Should you in the future decide to recommend the imposition of Primary Education Cess, then my Government will be only too glad to consider establishing a District School Board. At present, as a matter of policy they have been

compelled to rule that they cannot agree to the setting up of School Boards unless it is agreed that the cess shall be imposed.

You, Gentlemen of the Muslim Association, have spoken of the good relations existing between the Hindu and Muslim inhabitants of the District. I am gratified to have your assurance that this is so and I join with you in the hope that this happy state of affairs will continue.

As regards representation on local bodies and on the Provincial Legislature you have raised two widely divergent problems. At the time of the enactment of the Bengal Municipal Act, 1932, it was decided with the concurrence of representatives of both communities to follow the principle of joint electorates with reservation of seats for minority communities. I am aware that much has since been said both for and against this arrangement but will content myself with saying that the matter is one which must eventually be determined by the general view of the Legislature.

Representation in the Provincial Legislature however stands on a different footing. Such representation is part of the general Provincial Plan which after long discussion was finally incorporated in the Constitution, following the recommendations of the Indian Delimitation Committee. Muhammadan Rural seats were allotted to the several Districts strictly on a population basis and although Midnapore was not entitled, on that basis, to a full seat, it was in fact given one in accordance with the general principle then applied.

The principle of further weightage for local areas having been rejected it could not be applied in one area without affecting the structure as a whole.

In this matter it is possible to lay too much stress on local considerations and the same may be true of Government employment. The reservation of vacancies in Government service for Muslims is applied uniformly to all Districts whether the percentage of Muslim population in a particular District is large or small. In the case of Midnapore the Muslim population percentage is less than ten per cent. While therefore as between candidates of equal merit preference may quite possibly be given to the local man, it would I suggest be anomalous—not to say unfair to your fellow Muslims elsewhere in Bengal—to confine the filling up of Muslim vacancies to Muslims of the District. I would urge you rather to take full advantage of the wider opportunities that are opening to you both here and in the Province as a whole to make a contribution worthy of your heritage to the life and the future of Bengal in common with all other communities.

And now, Gentlemen, I will not detain you further. I have much before me in this visit and if the time I shall spend in Midnapore town seems short, I would ask you to remember that I shall be visiting outlying parts of the District anxious to learn as much as I can of its life and people.

I thank you once again in conclusion for your warm welcome this mornigng.



***His Excellency's Speech at the opening  
of the Vidyasagar Bani Bhawan, Jhargram,  
in Midnapore District on 23rd  
February 1940.***

MR. BASU, LADY BOSE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Before I come to the main purpose of my visit to Jhargram this morning, I should like to take this opportunity of thanking you all for the very delightful welcome you have given to my wife and myself. A formal visit to a District involves many calls on a Governor's time and consequently many restrictions on the freedom of his movements: it is only occasionally that he can leave the District Headquarters and see something of the countryside and outlying subdivisions. Today is one of those rare occasions and I am more than pleased that it has given me the opportunity of visiting such a delightful corner of rural Bengal as Jhargram and seeing *en route* quite a considerable stretch of typical country scenery.

I have been greatly impressed by your very interesting report on the work of the Nari Siksha Samiti and your account of the reasons which have led the Samiti to establish a branch of its Widows Home at Jhargram. I have heard much of the excellent work you are doing in Calcutta—which my wife has had the pleasure of seeing. But this is a new venture and one which I feel confident is a move in the right direction.

It is perhaps a truism to say that we live in an age of rapid social change. But we cannot let this blind us to the fact that change, however inevitable,

may often bring in its wake unhappiness and suffering to those who have not the means and the education to adjust themselves readily to new conditions. The gradual disintegration of the joint family system is a case in point. Many of those who, in times of trouble, could formerly look for assistance or support to that traditional system of the family are nowadays often thrown on their own resources: which, alas, are often far from adequate. The position of widows who find themselves in this predicament has on many occasions attracted the attention of social reformers; and the public of this Province has, with its characteristic generosity, done a great deal through charitable channels to mitigate the ensuing hardships. But, as you have so wisely realised, charity is not enough. It may relieve the problem temporarily but it cannot solve it. A more constructive policy is necessary, a policy which will afford them the opportunity of living in reasonable comfort and of taking a full part in the civic life of the State. This Home, which I am to open today, is a step towards the fulfilment of this policy. It will offer in the mofussil, what its parent home has offered in Calcutta—namely a means by which destitute widows can be trained to play a useful part in life and thereby help not only themselves but others also. It will do more. It will enable them to play this part in an environment to which they are accustomed and in which they can the more readily adapt themselves to whatever future career they decide to follow. This principle is, I feel, an important one. Nothing is more difficult to overcome than unfamiliar and what may even appear to

be unfriendly surroundings. Nothing can be of greater assistance in taking up a new and difficult task than an atmosphere akin to home.

But this Home will have still another function—a function which will bring it into the closest contact with the village uplift movement as a whole. I do not need to emphasise that one of our main difficulties in approaching the problem of rural reconstruction is the shortage of trained workers. Difficult as this problem is, when we are dealing with entire villages, it is a hundredfold more acute when we come to the problems which more particularly concern womenfolk and for which women workers are essential. I observe with great pleasure that the training which you propose to give at Jhargram will equip those who pass through the Home, with sufficient knowledge and experience of rural problems to give guidance and help to others. We are, therefore, inaugurating a home from which women who, instead of being doomed to a life of obscurity, will go forth to bring light to many dark corners of rural Bengal.

I will not detain you longer but before performing this very welcome task of opening the Home, I must express my thanks to the local people—amongst whom I would specially mention the name of Kumar Narasingha Malla Deb—whose munificence has made this foundation possible, and also to the District Board and the local officials who have co-operated wholeheartedly in this work. As a token of my goodwill towards the future of the home I intend to make a grant for the purchase of equipment, and now to give you my very best wishes for its prosperity and success.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Annual  
Dinner with the Officers of the Indian  
Police on 2nd March 1940.***

MR. GORDON, GENTLEMEN,

I think it was Taine, the great French critic and historian, who pointed out that one of the most striking characteristics of the Englishman was his extreme humility whenever he was brought into contact with the executive arm of the law. I share this common characteristic with all the inhabitants of the United Kingdom—in other words I am always on my best behaviour when in the company of Policemen. However, the warmth of your welcome this evening has done a good deal to remove my immediate trepidation though I can promise you that I am not going to have the temerity to inflict on you anything in the nature of a formal speech.

Our interest in each other is mutual. Your interest in me has at times been apparent. For instance by the amazingly efficient arrangements you make whenever I travel—I nearly said whenever I move or progress but I think in view of the Statesman leader last week I shall have to be very cautious about the use of that word. This interest I may add was not painfully obtrusive during the first game of golf I played here when I remember treating a considerable portion of the Calcutta Police Force to an exhibition of how to drive three successive golf balls into a tank which had not even the decency to be situated on the right fairway. It

speaks volumes for the tact and unobtrusiveness of the force that this exhibition passed off in complete silence.

I am still in the stage of first impressions and even though first impressions are not only dangerous but apt to be tiresome, I propose to crave your indulgence for a few moments to place these before you. I have seen a certain amount of Calcutta. I have paid formal visits to three Districts, an informal visit to another and—thanks to your Inspector-General—I have been allowed to visit three other Districts in a very much more informal manner than is usually possible for a Governor. One impression which is forced upon one is the very important part which the Police Force in this Province plays in the general life of the Districts and of the cities. I find your subordinate officers are repositories of knowledge about village life in general—and in many areas take a real and constructive part in the activities of the people—they are also, I observe, fully informed not only about the people and their habits but also of the location of the best snipe grounds. Your District Superintendents of Police who, as you know, accompany me whenever I tour, are also, I feel, genuinely interested not only in law and order but also the administration of the District. This is a state of affairs which appears to me to be eminently satisfactory and one which is best calculated to create that feeling of mutual confidence between Police and public which is the great wish of both your Inspector-General and your Calcutta Police Commissioner to promote. I do not wish to minimise the difficulties which beset your service—

I know you have passed through difficult times which have resulted in casualties to your members and I am not blind to the fact that we are not yet clear of these difficulties in Bengal. I know you are subject to frequent and often completely unfounded criticism. But I am certain that if you undertake your tasks in a manner which you genuinely and sincerely feel to be your duty—if your conscience is absolutely clear—then you need not fear any back-biting criticism. But in one way I think you are fortunate: you have in the Legislature a Home Minister who is determined to see that injustice is not done and that the Police Force of the Province gets fairplay.

These are a few first impressions and I do not propose to enlarge on them further. I consider it to be one of my duties as Governor—and a duty which is really a pleasure—to try to get to know personally as many members of the Services—particularly the Police and Civil Service—as I possibly can. I also want you to know me (although I trust that “familiarity will not breed contempt”) so that we can understand each other and thus work together to the common good. I understand I shall have an opportunity of meeting many of you individually this evening and therefore I hope you will not hesitate to speak to me quite frankly.

I thank you once again, gentlemen, for your welcome this evening—and for a very excellent dinner.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Calcutta University Convocation on 2nd March 1940.***

SIR MIRZA ISMAIL, MR. VICE-CHANCELLOR, LADIES  
AND GENTLEMEN,

I do not propose this morning to speak to you at length. I am still a new comer among you and I am deeply sensible of the honour which has fallen upon me of holding, as Governor of Bengal, the high office of Chancellor of this University and I am grateful, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, for the welcome you have given me to this position.

In the short time that I have been here new impressions have crowded upon me on every turn—both here in Calcutta and still more perhaps in the fields and bypaths of rural Bengal. I have become conscious of longstanding, difficult, and at the same time urgent problems awaiting solution by the organised genius of the Bengalee people.

I am at heart a countryman and though I cannot speak to the man of the field in his own language as I would like to, I have done what I can to get into personal touch with him and intend to do more. For, like you Mr. Vice-Chancellor, I realise how much the life of this Province depends on what you have called "The man behind the plough" and how much we, in this great city and in this great University, owe to the product of his labour. And just as the good cultivator leaves his land the better for his tending so should we, in whatever walk of life we find ourselves, strive to leave our mark for good.

I know I am voicing the feelings of everyone here in expressing our gratitude to Sir Mirza Muhammad Ismail for an address this morning as profound and provoking as it is practical. His humane understanding of the value of the ordinary man, his deep and lively sympathy with the University generation, which stands on the threshold of life, his wide and balanced sense of values have put in our hands this morning what I can only describe as the touch-stone of true quality. Few of us can have listened to that address without a deep searching in our own hearts and none of us will easily forget it. He has held before us a pattern of that intellectual and moral humility in which lies true greatness and has shown us how true scholarship and the richest gifts of intellect can be truly devoted to the service of mankind, India and Bengal. Surely there can be no higher aim than this for those who set out with all the enthusiasm of youth upon the campaign of life.

Many of you are about to leave the shelter of this great University and face the world with its joys and sorrows, with its unsolved problems and also with its great and far-reaching achievements. You will do so with all the enthusiasm of youth. To some of you the way may be difficult, to others easy. But I would counsel all of you to keep in mind the inspiring advice you have heard to-day and to remember that although you belong to a select intellectual group yet, in the words of a wise observer of life, Education is what remains to us when we have forgotten all our learning.



***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of  
the Annual Conference of Rotary Clubs  
on the 4th March 1940.***

MR. PRESIDENT, FELLOW ROTARIANS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have been invited to address you this morning and welcome you to this Conference not only in my capacity as Governor of the Province but also as a member—though I must confess, a very new one, of the Calcutta Rotary Club. I have no doubt that Calcutta with its traditional hospitality will ensure that the Conference is not readily forgotten and I am delighted to know that I shall have the pleasure of contributing to this hospitality. Calcutta can, I think, claim to be a particularly appropriate venue for a meeting of Rotarians. It has the proud privilege of being the first centre of Rotary in India and also of having, as President of the Calcutta Rotary Club, the oldest Rotarian in the country—I refer, of course Mr. President, to the length of your association with the movement and not to your years. Twenty-one years is not perhaps a long time in the life of a movement such as this but during this short space, much has been achieved and when we compare the extent of Rotary now with its small beginnings in 1919 I think we have every reason to be proud of the progress that has been made and hopeful for its ultimate development and expansion.

But this, Gentlemen, should not blind us to the fact that we are passing through difficult times and that possibly even greater difficulties lie ahead. One of the fundamental tenets of Rotary is that of a

world fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal of service for the advancement of international understanding. In the world, as we see it to-day, international understanding has received a rude setback. The war which is engaging the Great Powers of the West seems no nearer conclusion than it was six months ago and the lesser Powers, if one interprets their attitude correctly, show an increasing nervousness that they may eventually be embroiled in a conflict which can mean for them only appalling distress and suffering. And yet if we examine closely the events which have led to this present state of war, we can hardly avoid the conclusion that had the ideals for which we, as Rotarians, stand, been applied more actively in the sphere of international relations, the present unhappy state of affairs might have been avoided. The ideal of service, on which the principles of the Rotary movement have been built, is one which demands not only mutual help but mutual understanding also. It is one which I think we claim with pride has been followed by the Empire and by the democratic powers generally in their dealings with the aggressor State whose actions have precipitated the present conflict. Had this attitude been met by one of reasonable goodwill, I venture to think that we should not now be involved in war with Nazi Germany. Although these well meant efforts have been set at naught yet what I might call their "imponderable" effects; the efforts to deal with problems of international politics in a spirit of decency and fair play, are plainly obvious in the weight of unbiassed neutral opinion which has come down so unmistakably on our side.

It may seem a far cry from the Rotary movement to the present war but I mention it only as an example of how the ideals by which we strive to direct our lives and our relations with others have a significance beyond the confines of this movement.

One of the problems, Gentlemen, which faces Rotary at the present time, is how it can most profitably contribute to restore order and sanity to the present world. Its contribution can necessarily be only a small one and it is not for me to enlarge on a topic which I feel sure will be at the back of all your minds during this Conference. But one thing is worth remembering. The "imponderable" influences to which I have referred do carry weight in the long run. Rotary has, in the principles laid down as its "articles of faith", an ideal which must inevitably be applied in building up the new world order. I suggest that if we keep this ideal steadily before us we can contribute materially to the common cause which we all have at heart.

And now, Gentlemen, you have a busy day before you and I will not keep you any longer from your deliberations except to wish you once again a pleasant and profitable sitting in Calcutta.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Prize-distribution of the Barrackpore Government Park School on the 4th March 1940.***

MR. HEADMASTER, BOYS AND OLD BOYS OF THE SCHOOL, GENTLEMEN,

My wife and I are delighted to have this opportunity of welcoming you all to these grounds this afternoon. In the short time we have been in Bengal we have come to look upon our Barrackpore House and grounds as a pleasant week end retreat from Calcutta and it is a very great pleasure to us to be able to share their amenities, to-day, with a school which has always been so closely connected with the Governors-General of India and the Governors of this Province. I need hardly add that I look forward to the maintenance of this connection throughout my stay in Bengal.

I have just returned to Calcutta after a tour in Northern and West Bengal. During this tour I took the opportunity of visiting a number of schools, some of them in remote villages, far away from any railway station and others in the District Head-quarter towns. But wherever they were one thing that impressed me deeply was the keenness both of the students and of the teachers, to take every advantage they could of the educational facilities at their disposal. These facilities were not always all we could wish for but whatever they were, they were utilised to the full. Here in Barrackpore you are more fortunately situated than many other

schools in the Province. Your buildings and general amenities are well above the average, whilst your financial position is such that you are relieved of many of the worries which hamper the progress of your sister institutions in the mofussil.

Love of learning is a very fine trait in the Bengali character and one which has produced a long and distinguished tradition in the literary field and also, of recent years in the field of scientific research. It is a tradition which it is your duty to maintain, ensuring that there is no falling away in standards.

I daresay that many of you, especially those who will shortly be leaving school either to enter the University, or to make your own way in the business or professional world, often wonder how far education is a real help in life. To a boy who is taking up a service or professional career to which admission is gained by examination, the answer is more obvious. But whatever you intend to do I consider it important you should remember that it is not necessarily your book knowledge which will be of value to you, but your ability to think for yourselves, to move about and understand other peoples point of view. There are many in this world who have a great deal of knowledge but are still ill educated. It is the object of our schools to educate their pupils fully and not merely to fill their heads with book learning. This is one of the reasons why so much importance is attached to the various activities such as games, scouting, debating, and other matters which fall outside the regular curriculum—matters in which I am glad to see your School takes a very lively interest.

Therefore I would like to say how very much my wife and I have enjoyed the entertainment you have given to-day, and we congratulate those who have been fortunate enough to win prizes. I have also one announcement to make. I am making a donation to the school in the hopes that it will be of some use in encouraging those outside activities I mentioned.

***His Excellency's Addresses in presenting  
Medals of Merit at the Annual Meeting  
of the Bengal Provincial Boy Scouts  
Association on 14th March 1940.***

SCOUTER V. C. PRINS,

Joining the movement 16 years ago as a Scoutmaster you have been largely responsible for the satisfactory progress which scouting has made in the Kurseong area of Darjeeling District. Your close and continuous personal contact with the Scouts has resulted in great enthusiasm for the movement and enabled you to found the Kurseong Association of which you are now Assistant District Commissioner.

The Chief Scout has now been pleased to award you a Medal of Merit in recognition of your good services to the movement. In decorating you with this medal I am very pleased to convey to you the congratulations of His Excellency the Chief Scout for India, and to add to them my own.

SCOUTER BHABANI PRASAD ROY CHOWDHURY,

Joining the movement some years ago as a trained Scoutmaster you have identified yourself wholeheartedly with Scouting in Rangpur where your enthusiasm and knowledge has been of the greatest assistance to the Local Association. You were also invited to visit the neighbouring State of Cooch Behar where your work in inaugurating Scouting was highly appreciated.

The Chief Scout has now been pleased to award you a Medal of Merit in recognition of your good

services to the movement. In decorating you with this medal I am very pleased to convey to you the congratulations of His Excellency the Chief Scout for India, and to add to them my own.

MR. S. K. BOSE,

You are now the Assistant District Commissioner and Honorary Secretary of the Burdwan Association. Scouting in that District owes a great deal to your energy and enthusiasm and was able, under your guidance, to demonstrate its practical value in rendering relief to flood distressed people, a short while ago.

The Chief Scout has now been pleased to award you a Medal of Merit in recognition of your good services to the movement. In decorating you with this medal I am very pleased to convey to you the congratulations of His Excellency the Chief Scout for India, and to add to them my own.

KHAN BAHADUR MOHAMMED ALI,

You have now held the post of Honorary Secretary of the Bogra Association for eight years and during this period have worked unremittingly to consolidate and extend Scouting throughout the District. In particular, your success in introducing Scouting into all the District Board Schools, has been of great value to the Association.

The Chief Scout has now been pleased to award you a Medal of Merit in recognition of your good services to the movement. In decorating you with this medal I am very pleased to convey to you the congratulations of His Excellency the Chief Scout for India, and to add to them my own.



PROFESSOR NALINI RANJAN RAY,

As a Professor at Edward College, Pabna, and Secretary of the Local Association for the last eight years you have made full use of your great opportunities to forward the cause of scouting in Pabna. Your personal popularity and the high regard in which you are held by the students has enabled you to pilot the Local Association with conspicuous success through very difficult times.

The Chief Scout has now been pleased to award you a Medal of Merit in recognition of your good services to the movement. In decorating you with this medal I am very pleased to convey to you the congratulations of His Excellency the Chief Scout for India, and to add to them my own.

SCOUTER JITEN DAS,

You have been a keen and enthusiastic Scout since 1924 and have, by your perseverance and merit, risen to the rank of Scoutmaster. You are at present Honorary Secretary of the Behala Boy Scouts Association as well as Honorary Secretary and District Scoutmaster of the 24-Parganas Association—positions which you have held with outstanding success.

The Chief Scout has now been pleased to award you a Medal of Merit in recognition of your good services to the movement. In decorating you with this medal I am very pleased to convey to you the congratulations of His Excellency the Chief Scout for India, and to add to them my own.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Meeting of the Bengal Provincial Boy Scouts Association, on 14th March 1940.***

In welcoming you all to Government House this evening may I, through you, convey to all Scouts in Bengal my greetings and good wishes. I have as yet had but few opportunities of meeting them at work or at play and I look forward to seeing teams from all over the Province at the next Jackson Shield Competition in Darjeeling.

Before I came to this Province I wondered if I would ever succeed in encouraging something on the lines of a series of camps I had inaugurated at home. There it was my object to bring boys from the distressed industrial areas of Wales to enjoy the glorious life and scenery offered by the rural portion of our country: to taste the country air, and learn something of the realities of life. Coming here I wondered if I would have an opportunity to bring boys from confined and local environment, to enjoy the great glory and traditions of their Province. I am glad to discover that my predecessors had the same ideals and that owing to them we have the Ganganagar Camp, the Jackson Shield Competition and similar opportunities of meeting. In particular it delights me to attempt to continue the ideals of Lord Brabourne who did all he could to encourage the Scout Movement in Bengal, as he had previously done in Bombay.

I have referred to the Jackson Shield Competition as being the ultimate test of efficiency, but we as

Scouts have been brought up to learn that it is not only the finals that matter. All the hard and often thankless work that goes in preparation, in the fitting for the ultimate test is a part of our ideology. A Scout works to keep himself fit and prepared as a matter of course, knowing that it is not the final glamour, but the real spirit of service and of efficiency that matters most of all. We have undertaken to do our best—at all times and within our own sphere as best we can. We have promised to do our duty to God, the King Emperor and our country—to the utmost of our opportunity and ability. We have pledged ourselves to help other people at all times—even at inconvenience to ourselves. We have—in fact—sworn to obey the Scout Law.

Remembering as we always must our vow of service we cannot but ask ourselves what contribution we can make to the War. In some ways that question has been answered—we can train ourselves in all those branches of Scouting that will render us more useful if we are called upon to serve actively or in any emergency that may arise from war time conditions: we can place our services at the disposal of any organisation in our localities that is helping the war effort, and I need only refer to first aid and A. R. P. organisations as instances of practical service that has been rendered. But there is something else that we can bear in mind through all the activities of our lives to keep our courage and determination through all that we and our comrades are called upon to do and endure: to keep faith in our own ideals in the hope that some day the spirit of Scouting may again rise triumphant even in

those countries where the spirit of brotherhood and human kindness has been stamped out of rising generations by a perverted and ruthless regime. If in company with our brother Scouts in all those realms of the world where the Scout spirit is still permitted to exist—we can keep these ideals alive without slackening in our determination to see this war through we shall have been true to our duty to God, to our King and to our fellow men.

For my part I can assure you that I do not regard the office of Chief Scout merely as one of the appendages of a Governorship. I value it as a personal privilege and as an opportunity of furthering the cause of comradeship and good-will which means so much in a distracted world.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Meeting of the Tuberculosis Association of Bengal on the 15th March 1940.***

DR. ROY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Colonel Sen has already given us a most competent and illuminating survey of the year's work and of the problems which face the Association and I propose to make only a few observations. Before I do so, however, I would like to thank you for your welcome and to say how deeply conscious I am of the honour of presiding, as Governor of this Province, over the first meeting of the Association. I know how great an interest the late Lord Brabourne and my two immediate predecessors took in the Association and I know, too, how much hard and detailed work was necessary before it could be inaugurated in its present form. The proposal to associate Lord Brabourne's name with a part of the new building which it is hoped to erect, is a particularly happy one and one which has my warmest sympathy. If and when it comes into being, it will stand as a tribute to one of the most fruitful and happy spheres of voluntary co-operative effort of which this Province can boast.

The result of the appeal sponsored by Her Excellency Lady Linlithgow is a splendid example of what India can do when really roused to the consciousness of a pressing social evil and it is a happy reflection, and one in which we may take justifiable pride, that in this matter Bengal has given the lead to the rest of India. We must not however think—and the Annual Report is an apt

reminder of this—that having raised and invested the funds and having established an Association, the major part of our task is done. In fact our work lies ahead of us and it is clear from the measures which have already been taken that the task is a gigantic one and will more than tax the slender resources now at our disposal.

As I see it, our task is twofold. In the first place we must maintain an unremitting effort to augment our income which, as Dr. Sen has pointed out, at present only enables us to touch the fringe of the problem. In the second place, we must see to it that our resources are applied to the best possible advantage of the Province as a whole. A good start has already been made in Calcutta where we have the benefit of the experience acquired by the old Tuberculosis Association of Bengal and by the usual amenities of a great city. In the Districts too a start has been made by the publicity branch, and the rules for the establishment and management of District Branches have already been drawn up. So far, however, the response has not been very great and I feel that this is one branch of our work which offers a wide field for progress. Although, with one or two exceptions, the problem of Tuberculosis is not so acute in the Districts as it is in Calcutta and the immediate neighbourhood, we must not overlook the fact that the Districts subscribed more than two lakhs and twenty thousand rupees towards the corpus of the Fund. In other words they have already demonstrated that they are conscious of tuberculosis and it is up to the Association to do all in its power to translate this consciousness into productive effort.

The Association is still in its infancy and the work which has already been done can only indicate the direction in which we may expect our activities to develop in the future. I feel confident, however, that Bengal is capable of tackling, and tackling adequately, this dreadful scourge about which we have learnt so much during the last few years.

Although I have spoken in rather general terms I trust that you will realise how greatly I appreciate the work that has been done. I want you to know that I look upon this war against disease and suffering as something real, which must be tackled. I can only hope that it may be granted to me during my term of office to see the fruits of seeds sown by my predecessors, whereby we may know that the health of Bengal is improving. Tuberculosis is a dread scourge, and I can only hope that we shall be able to do something during the coming years to combat this evil disease. I shall not, Dr. Roy, be so closely concerned with detailed activities as will you, or the members of the Committee but I shall follow with keen interest the progress which we all hope will be made during the ensuing 12 months, and I can assure you that I am always ready to help in any way I can. "

***His Excellency's Speech at the laying of  
the Foundation Stone of the Wakf Building  
on 19th March 1940.***

MR. FAZLUL HUQ, KHAN BAHADUR ABDUL MOMIN,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have listened with great interest to the account of the activities of the Board of Wakfs and to the many and varied considerations which led to its inception and I realise very clearly that the foundation stone which I have just laid is, in itself, a symbol of the very deep feeling on the subject which exists amongst the Muslims of Bengal. It is clear that the Board has already succeeded in bringing the Wakfs of the Province more closely into the public eye and more directly under the advice and control of those who are best fitted to guide their progress and development. This is, I feel, a step in the right direction.

That there has been criticism of the Board is frankly admitted and is not unnatural. The relationship which exists in any country between the secular and religious institutions or, as it is called in the West, the relationship between the Church and State is a complex matter and one which has given rise to much speculative thought and many diverse and strongly expressed opinions. It has given rise also to many experiments, some of them happy, others unfortunate. But whether or not we turn towards an Erastian system or a system in which the State takes as little responsibility as possible for the religious life of its people, there must of necessity be some sort of formal relationship



whereby ideas can be exchanged, ordinary business carried on and public opinion makes itself heard and felt.

The Board of Wakfs does, in fact represent such a relationship between the Government and the Wakfs of Bengal and there can, I think, be little doubt that its existence has been more than justified by the work it has achieved. As the report to which we have just listened, emphasises, the Wakfs of the Province were previously disorganised and in some cases not too well-managed as a result of which there was dissatisfaction and criticism. That this has not yet been altogether removed is only natural when we recall that the Act has been in full force for barely 4 years and has, as do all new Acts, shown a number of defects. An Amending Act is however under consideration and if the legislature approves it we may hope that some, at least, of the grounds for criticism, will be removed.

The Wakfs of Bengal are a great heritage of its people and it is for the people of the Province to ensure that this heritage is wisely preserved and used to its best advantage. The passing of the Bengal Wakf Act in 1934 and the creation of the Board was a sign of Government's determination to do this. The foundation of this building which is designed to meet the increased demands on space and amenities which have now arisen is a sign that the newly constituted Board has faith in its mission and faith too, in its own future. This faith, is, I am confident, shared by all of us who have come here this morning and who, by doing so, have joined me in wishing the Board a successful future.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Meeting of the St. John Ambulance Association and Indian Red Cross Society on the 19th March 1940.***

SIR UPENDRANATH, GENERAL MILLS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am grateful to you for your welcome this evening and proud to have the opportunity of presiding over a joint meeting of two Associations which have made common cause in the Health Welfare movement of this Province. During my brief stay in Bengal I have become very conscious of the importance which attaches to this movement and of the deep sense of public duty which has inspired so many voluntary workers to devote a not inconsiderable portion of their leisure hours to assisting it. I am conscious too that we need all the help and co-operation that we can get and that we have suffered irreparable loss by the deaths of the two members whose names have been mentioned this afternoon. You are all aware, as I am, of the deep interest which the late Lord Brabourne took both in the Red Cross and the St. John Ambulance Association and it is not for me to enlarge on the invaluable help he gave to you. With you I mourn his loss as one who, in the short time he was here, worked wholeheartedly to further the cause which we all have at heart. His death has also deprived us of the services of The Lady Brabourne whose work was, I know, deeply appreciated and widely valued. I hope that my wife and I will be able,

in some measure, to carry on the work to which they set their hands. We shall certainly use our best endeavours to do so.

The outbreak of war must inevitably loom large in all our minds. Important as were the problems which faced us in times of peace, they are doubly important now. Our work is not only concerned with Health Welfare in the Province but also with the wider problems which have arisen as a result of war time conditions. Although Bengal may seem, at the moment, remote from the scene of actual conflict we cannot escape its repercussions nor can we be sure that it will not spread more widely than at present. Fortunately, and I think we may say it with justifiable pride, the war has not found us unprepared. The 12 months of doubts and alarms which elapsed between the September crisis of 1938 and the actual outbreak of war was wisely employed and September 1939 found us prepared with a mobilisation plan and enabled us to bring into active existence a Joint War Committee which has, since then, done excellent work. I need only refer to our A. R. P. and anti-gas activities, to the stimulus that has been given to nursing and ambulance training and to the hard work which has been done by the Ladies War Committee to show that the St. John Ambulance Association and the Red Cross are fully prepared to shoulder the additional responsibilities which have fallen upon them. These responsibilities are not light: Calcutta has become a receiving and despatching depot for supplies and these supplies have been sent as far afield as Hong Kong, Egypt and the North West Frontier. I am

confident that we shall not fail to continue to discharge the responsibilities however difficult and onerous they may become.

Yet, there is one thing we must not overlook. Side by side with our war effort we have a great volume of what I would term 'normal and routine' work to maintain. It is not always easy to draw a dividing line between this type of work and war work for, as you are well aware, our organisation is a complex one. But when I say that 'normal and routine' work must be maintained I refer more particularly to aspects of Health Welfare work on the development of which we would have concentrated all our energies, had war not intervened. I refer to the various sections of the Bengal Health Welfare Committee—in particular to the problem of the Sir John Anderson Health School for which, as yet, we have not been able to find a permanent home. I refer also to the excellent start of the blood transfusion scheme which, thanks largely to your efforts, Sir Upendranath has been secured for the next two years. It still, however, requires to be placed on a permanent footing and I trust our efforts to do this will not relax. There is, too, the problem of the Junior Red Cross. We cannot regard with equanimity a position in which the enrolment of 35 new groups has been more than offset by the fact that 73 groups have not continued their affiliation.

I mention these points only as problems of which we must not lose sight and on which we might well have concentrated all our energy had it not been for the war. I am, however, impressed by what has actually been achieved and I think we

may congratulate ourselves that during the course of a very difficult year we have utilised our resources in the best manner possible. I trust and believe too that the coming year will not find us wanting.

Our functions are multifarious but they fall broadly under two categories: the assistance of troops on service and assistance of health services within Bengal. The former is dealt with mainly by the Joint War Fund Committee now under the co-ordinating auspices of the Bengal War Purposes Fund. Its task is to render aid to the wounded and provide comforts to troops on service. We who are away from the immediate discomforts of war, should support this cause with all the resources at our disposal. The cause of the Health Welfare Services must be supported too. There is much to be done to improve conditions in our Province and we must see to it that the schemes now maturing do not crumble for lack of support. Schemes which have been started must, as far as is possible, be maintained and carried through. Our task for the coming year is therefore doubly hard; let us by every possible means show that we are capable of shouldering responsibilities we have undertaken and when we meet again next year, let us be certain that we shall look back on 12 months of real achievement.

***His Exoellenoy's Reply to the Addresses  
presented at Darjeeling on the 21st  
March 1940.***

GENTLEMEN,

I thank you warmly both on behalf of my wife and myself for the very friendly welcome you have extended to us this morning. My wife has already paid a short visit to Darjeeling and I have been long looking forward to the day when we should come here together and make our first acquaintance with the Darjeeling hills which are to be our home for a good portion of the year during our stay in Bengal.

We have already met some of you during a very enjoyable visit to the camp at Jalpaiguri and I have had the good fortune twice in little more than a month to be escorted by a Bodyguard of the Northern Bengal Mounted Rifles whose Colonel in chief I am proud to be.

During the last cold weather in Calcutta I had the opportunity of meeting His Highness the Maharaja of Nepal; he had much to say of Darjeeling and I promised him that I would keep a benevolent eye on the Dhirdham Temple and the proposed Dharmasala—for this institution has been founded in Darjeeling owing to His Highness' generosity and is yet another token of the abiding comradeship between ourselves and the great people over whose destinies he presides. I have also had the pleasure of entertaining in Calcutta His Highness the Maharaja of Sikkim who holds so high a place in

the respect and affection of the Buddhist community. Our valued link with the neighbour State of Bhutan—Raja Sonam Tobgye Dorji—is not unknown to me. I feel that I have come to a friendly place among friendly neighbours and I appreciate the responsibilities that have been laid upon me personally, no less than upon my Government for the peace and good Government of Darjeeling District and for the interests of its peoples.

Because I expect to see so much of Darjeeling in the months, and I hope in the years, to come, I do not propose this morning to discuss in great detail all the problems to which your addresses have drawn my attention. I have studied them carefully and in doing so, I have studied a good deal of back history. Your addresses show ample evidence of achievement and of co-operation both in Municipal and District affairs between all classes of the community for the common good and progress of the town and District. At the same time I appreciate the importance of the unsolved problems that confront you today.

#### GENTLEMEN OF THE MUNICIPALITY,

I observe that the improvement of your Water Supply, your Electric Supply and the problem of slum areas in Darjeeling still occupy a prominent place in your programme. To deal with water supply first. The loan from the Imperial Bank, which is necessary for the improvements you have mentioned, has been approved; there is also technical agreement on your revised scheme; therefore so far as Government is concerned, there

should now be no obstacle to the fulfilment of the scheme with the aid of the usual grant of one-third of the cost from Provincial revenues.

As regards Electricity: At the present stage I can make no comment on the value of the various proposals that have been suggested from time to time to increase the sources of your Electric Supply. But I would urge upon you, Gentlemen, the need for taking a long view of this matter, for coming to an early and well considered decision and for maintaining continuity of policy in carrying it out. Few schemes are so perfect that nothing better could ever be thought of. On the other hand, if we are always waiting for something better the problem will never be solved and I would urge upon you, if you have not already done so, to take the best technical advice upon the various alternatives before you, to face the problem with a long-sighted view and, having determined upon your line of advance, to carry it through without wavering. It may be that under war time conditions you would be justified in limiting the scope of any project you may have in mind; but if you have confidence in the future of Darjeeling town and District you need not necessarily condemn a sound and remunerative project merely because its initial cost is high.

The problem of one or two of your slum areas is, I believe, of many years standing and it was hoped that the new powers which you obtained under the amended Municipal Act would stand you in good stead in this respect. I observe that the scheme of acquisition to which you referred in your address to Lord Brabourne two years ago was



subsequently withdrawn on the ground of expense. The next step, Gentlemen, must come from yourselves and I have no doubt that you are continuing to explore every possibility. If, as seems likely, war time conditions should bring increased prosperity to Darjeeling, I trust that the Municipality will both share in the benefit and turn any increase of its own prosperity to good account.

I realise there is strong feeling on the subject of the Eden Sanatorium and this is a case in which there may be conflict between considerations of technical economy and considerations of sentiment neither of which can be lightly brushed aside. Finance, however, is likely to be the crux of the problem and I would ask you to bear this in mind in the discussions which are proceeding on the matter—discussions in which I shall personally take a lively interest.

I am glad to hear that your Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics have received a favourable report; the grant for one Health Visitor has been sanctioned with effect from next month.

#### GENTLEMEN OF THE DISTRICT BOARD,

You have drawn my attention to the serious damage to your finances caused by the suspension of certain forms of local taxation in the shape of tolls leviable by the Darjeeling Improvement Fund. The essential portion of those tolls has, I am informed, now been restored and my Government have made a special grant of thirty six thousand rupees from Provincial revenues to meet such portion of the deficit as in their view was directly due

to the suspension of this taxation. A further grant of ten thousand rupees will also be restored for the current year and paid from the Darjeeling Improvement Fund. I trust these measures will suffice to meet the immediate deficit, but I must observe that this is not the root of the problem. As you are no doubt aware, the tolls in question were suspended as a result of local representations, and naturally we all like reduction of taxation. But the District of Darjeeling has, in fact, for many years past made certain contributions towards its local finances by means of special forms of local taxation. It must have been recognised by now, that if those sources of revenue are abandoned, the Province as a whole cannot be expected either directly or indirectly to shoulder the burden. I do not propose to pursue the matter further now or to enter into the realms of political controversy, but I would ask all those who have responsibilities and influence in the District of Darjeeling to bear this in mind and to use their best endeavours to guard against a recurrence of the difficulties from which the District Board has suffered.

On the other hand, Gentlemen, let me assure you that where a call is made upon Government for assistance in financing new projects—projects of a nature which it is the policy of Government to assist in other Districts—my Government, within the limits of their resources, will respond no less to Darjeeling than to the other Districts in the Province. In saying this, I have particularly in mind the scheme for the organisation of Public Health Services in the rural areas of this District. I have observed the reference that Lord Brabourne

made to this matter nearly two years ago and you are aware that the basic principles of your scheme have long ago been accepted by the Public Health Department: my information is that the fulfilment of this scheme has been delayed by an endeavour to produce a more perfect one as part of a scheme of general application to the whole Province. The Hon'ble Minister is in agreement with me, and I hope with you, that further delay would be inequitable to the District: he has assured me personally that the matter will receive his urgent attention as soon as the preoccupations of the Budget Session are over.

I have noted with pleasure your reference to the co-operation of the tea garden Managers in the matter of communications. I have heard much of the rapid opening up of the District during recent years and I may add that I have brought out from England a small car with an eye to exploring the Darjeeling hill roads myself.

I appreciate too your acknowledgment of the co-operation of the Missions in the task of Primary Education for by such co-operation I feel that whatever resources there are can be turned to the greatest advantage.

#### GENTLEMEN OF THE HILLMEN'S ASSOCIATION,

The comradeship of your people in arms and their unflinching loyalty no less than your special position on this frontier of my Province entitle you to a friendly hearing from me on matters in which you may feel that your vital interests are affected. In the papers which you laid before the Under Secretary of State on his visit

and which I have seen, you have raised issues of far wider scope than can be discussed on the present occasion. Coming nearer however to the day to day administration of the Province, you have referred particularly to your position with respect to representation in the Public Services. As regards the local Services of the District itself, my Government have frankly recognised that the principle of communal distribution applicable to the plains cannot be applied to Darjeeling, and it is primarily the duty of the local officers of Government to secure just representation of the various peoples of this District in the services under their control. In regard to the Provincial Services, you have asked that the members of your community should compete among themselves for a specified proportion of vacancies. To a great extent this is already the case since you are included in those classes to whom special consideration may be given. In the competitive examinations such candidates are in fact listed separately : the problem therefore is not so much one of facing open competition as of securing really qualified candidates to appear at the examinations.

Gentlemen, the scourge of Tuberculosis is a matter of common concern to all of you, and it is for this very reason that I would deprecate the suggestion that the moneys raised by the King Emperor's Fund should be dissipated in local projects of capital expenditure. There was, I understand, no promise from the authorities of the Fund that District collections would be returned to the Districts and I find that as long ago as 1938 the position was made clear to the District Committee.

The capital of the Fund cannot be touched without the consent of the Central Committee but I have no hesitation in saying that if the Darjeeling District will form a District Association and affiliate itself to the Bengal Anti-Tuberculosis Association, it will benefit, not only by centralised research but by recurring assistance in a manner which should prove satisfactory in scale and in the best interests of the District.

I should add that Government are contributing to the cost of indoor patients in the Victoria Hospital and will contribute in the coming year to the cost of indoor patients at your own Tuberculosis Hospital.

There is one further matter of great interest to the district to which I shall make a brief reference. I am aware that certain orders restricting lorries on the Darjeeling Cart Road to one trip a day recently formed the subject matter of representations. These orders have been withdrawn. I can assure you that fullest enquiries will be made into the matter before any further drastic alteration is made in the existing rules.

I have endeavoured in a brief compass to deal with the major matters comprised in your addresses, but do not think, because I have confined myself primarily to a review of your difficulties that I fail to appreciate your achievements. On the contrary I look forward to sharing with you the amenities that your enterprise and labour have brought to this town and District and I can assure you that both as Governor and as a resident among you I shall maintain a lively interest in the welfare and progress of Darjeeling and its people.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of  
the Co-operative Conference on the  
30th March 1940.***

MR. MULICK, GENTLEMEN,

The opportunity which you have given me this morning of meeting so many representatives of the Co-operative movement and of hearing something of their problems and achievements, is one for which I am deeply grateful and of which I have been only too glad to avail myself. I am glad to see that you have invited to preside over your conference a veteran and distinguished co-operator from Madras in the person of Mr. Ramdas Pantalu. On occasions such as this interchange of experience is of great value. As you have already been kind enough to say, the Co-operative movement is one in which I have long been interested and one whose development I shall follow in Bengal with real interest and sympathy. I cannot, as yet, claim a close personal knowledge of all the problems with which the movement is faced in this Province, but during the brief tours, both formal and informal, which I have so far been able to make in the Districts, I have been impressed by the important part which this movement plays in the life of rural Bengal. I have had the opportunity of visiting the Co-operative Training Institute at Dum Dum and seeing for myself the arrangements which have been made to ensure that there shall be an adequate supply of trained personnel to guide and assist the movement. I was impressed by the keenness of those who were under training, and I

was glad to observe the importance attached to this course, because the future of the movement must to a large extent depend upon the drive and ability of the directing staff upon whom falls the responsibility of guiding newly formed Societies through the difficult initial stages.

The problems of Co-operative Credit and of linking Co-operative Credit with purchasing and marketing facilities raise very wide and complex issues and it is not to be wondered at that the movement has met with reverses as well as successes. We must recognise that the Co-operative movement in Bengal has not really had time to pass completely beyond the experimental stage: although it was established nearly 40 years ago, very little progress was made until after the publication of the McLagen report in 1915, and in the 25 years which have elapsed since then we have been faced with one of the most formidable economic depressions which it has been the misfortune of any country to undergo. The period has also been beset with unexpected difficulties and it is only natural that a development of the magnitude and complexity of the Co-operative movement should have experienced considerable difficulty in establishing itself on a sure and sound foundation. And yet, Gentlemen, when I survey what has actually been done, I feel that we should give due weight not merely to the difficulties and the occasional failures which have been experienced, but to the success with which the movement has permeated the remotest corners of this Province.

We are now, I think, approaching a new phase. The country has to some extent adjusted itself to the

economic depression of 10 years' ago which subjected the movement to such severe strains and, for a time, brought progress to a standstill. This period of depression did, however, serve its purpose; whilst it prevented further development, it did serve to show up the weak points in the structure and to compel examination of them. The benefit of that examination is now becoming apparent. The decision to confine the activities of Agricultural Credit Societies and Central Banks to short term loans and to leave the Land Mortgage Banks to deal with long term loans is, I am sure, a wise one. Another new and interesting development is the creation of multi-purpose societies which are designed to link up credit with marketing and rural welfare societies. This development recognises a fact which is, I consider, important, namely, that the provision of credit facilities alone will not solve the problems which face the cultivator. The provision of credit facilities must be followed up by the provision of facilities to further the general economic welfare of the unit concerned.

Further steps for improving and consolidating the movement are also under consideration, the most important of these being the Bill to which a reference has already been made this morning. As this Bill will shortly come before the Legislature it would not be appropriate for me to make any comments on its merits at this stage, except to express the hope that it will help to remove some of the defects which have manifested themselves in the working of the present Act.

The Co-operative movement offers one of the most promising approaches that I know of to our



present day problems. Many distinguished men have spent the best part of their lives in developing and encouraging it and it has already achieved many notable successes. It would not be out of place to recall here the splendid example of the Gosaba experiment and the work which was devoted to it by Sir Daniel Hamilton, whose recent death has been such a loss. But to make the movement a success on a wide scale requires unremitting effort on the part of officials of the Department, of that large body of non-official workers who have devoted so much time and effort to it, and last but not least the members of the Societies themselves.

If the movement is to be based upon secure foundations, which will be strong enough to bear the strain of expansion, we must be realists, prepared to seek defects so as to remedy them, developing schemes on sound lines so that the interests of all concerned are assured. We must also be prepared, like any other businessman, to face reverses. As its name implies, the movement entails real and genuine co-operation between various interests and individuals to the benefit of the whole community.

Much can be accomplished if we face problems in a spirit of mutual assistance, from which selfish and rapacious motives are banned.

You, who have assembled for this conference, have each a personal responsibility in your contribution to the whole. Your analysis of defects with their remedies, and the conclusions you arrive at, will affect the future of a movement in which we believe not as a mere ideal, but as a reality which can be

achieved if all will pull together, cheerfully and constructively, for the common good of this our Province and all people in it.

I myself have great faith in the future and I think the representative nature of the gathering here today shows that you also share that faith. Therefore in declaring this conference open, I trust that your deliberations will lead to profitable and productive results.

***His Excellency's Speech at the "Domala"  
Memorial Service on the 31st March  
1940.***

GENTLEMEN,

This meeting has been called not with the intention of bringing to light any fresh facts about the tragic fate of the passengers and crew of the "Domala"—we now know all there is to know about this outrage—but in order to give public expression to our sense of loss and to honour the memory of brave men who lost their lives by an outrage abhorrent to the great traditions of the sea.

War, under modern conditions, is a horrible thing, and when we are in a state of war we accept without question its terrible implications. We accept the fact that the armed forces of the Crown go forth in peril of their lives; we accept the fact that our resources must be mobilised to prosecute the war effort to the best of our ability, and we accept the fact that material losses must be inflicted and must be suffered. But, Gentlemen, these Indian Sailors who perished, 'along with their British comrades, in the Channel were not members of His Majesty's Armed Forces; not all of them were even members of the British Mercantile Marine. Some of them were sailors who had been serving in times of peace in German ships. They were interned at the outbreak of the war and their release had just been secured by the good offices of the British and American Governments. Whether or not the Nazi plane which first bombed the

“Domala” and then so brutally machine-gunned the helpless passengers and crew, was aware of this, is something we shall perhaps never know. What we do know is that as an enlightened and civilized people we can never accept this type of war which is being waged by Germany on humanity at large.

This outrage has, I have no doubt, brought personal loss to many who are assembled here today—but it has not and it will not daunt the courage and determination of Bengal’s seamen. The oceans of the world are still open to the friends of freedom and humanity. As today we pay our sorrowing tribute to those whom we have lost, let us also remember with pride their comrades, among the seamen of Bengal who still face the perils and dangers created by a ruthless enemy and who are united with us in a common determination that tyranny and inhumanity shall not triumph on this earth.

To these men no less than to the families of those who have been lost we owe a debt. One way in which we can try to repay that debt is to assist with money in providing for the comfort and welfare of seamen—and that is one of the objects of my own Bengal War Purposes Fund. But the lascar needs help and comfort not only at sea; he also needs it in his home port. I hope it will be possible to make a real endeavour to improve the conditions under which the Indian seaman lives in Calcutta. This is a task which will require the co-ordinated efforts of the Central Government, the Commissioners of the Port and my Government in Bengal. It is an effort in which I propose to take a lively

personal interest. It will take time to evolve a practical solution of these difficulties; but when we have done so we shall need money and we shall call upon the generosity of Bengal to help in the fulfilment of our aims. Remembering the debt that we owe to these men, I hope and believe that when the call for help is made it will not be made in vain.





